

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**February 5, 2009**

**ROBERT J. SAMANIE, III  
CHAIRMAN**

## **BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.  
For more information, call (225) 765-2806.

**AGENDA**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2009	1
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege	1
4. To announce Employee Reward and Recognition Winners	1
5. To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January	2
6. To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Changes to Hunting Season Dates	2
7. To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Changes to General and WMA Hunting Regulations	2
8. To receive and consider Resolution and Notice of Intent to Establish a Procedure to Add New Species to the List of Domesticated Aquatic Organisms	52
9. To receive and consider Report on the 2008-2009 Oyster Season and Declarations of Emergency relative to Possible Season Adjustments in Portions of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds	57
10. To receive presentation of Annual Stock Assessment Report for Striped Mullet	58
11. Set June 2009 Meeting Date	58

12.	Receive Public Comments	59
13.	Adjournment	59

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Chairman Robert J. Samanie, III presiding.

Patrick Morrow  
Stephen Oats  
Stephen Sagrera  
Ann Taylor

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Commissioners Frederic Miller and Earl King, Jr. were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Samanie called for a motion for approval of the **January 8, 2009 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Oats and seconded by Commissioner Morrow. The motion passed with no opposition.

There were no **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month.

The next item, **To announce Employee Reward and Recognition Winners** was handled by Mr. Thomas Gresham. He stated it was a pleasure to announce the 2007-2008 reward and recognition winners. Winner of the Secretary Award was Mr. Jason Froeba, Marine Division. Employee of the Year Award winners were Mrs. Janice Lansing, Office of Management & Finance; Mr. Fred Whitrock, Legal Section; Mr. Bruce Crain, Wildlife Division; and Mr. Jason Froeba, Marine Division. Customer Service Award recipients were Ms. Dawn Mitchell, Human Resources; Cindy Kemp, Enforcement Division; and Mr. Jason Duet, Marine Fisheries. Student Appreciation Award winners

were Ms. Camille Deshotel, Human Resources and Mr. Zane LeBlanc, Marine Fisheries. Winners of the Special Achievement by a Team Award went to the Office of Management & Finance Staff, Southeast Coastal Operations Tech Staff from the Office of Wildlife and the Lake Bistineau Sprayers from the Inland Fisheries Division.

Mr. Robert Love stated he wanted to recognize an employee for a state Civil Service award, which was the highest honor a classified employee can receive. The Civil Service League bestows this award on those that demonstrates unselfish service to the citizens of Louisiana, improvements to the work place, personal initiative and volunteer community service. The award was named after the League's founder, Charles Dunbar who started Civil Service. Nominees were supplied from over 400 agencies. Mr. Love then announced the recipient was Mr. Guthrie Perry. Mr. Perry stated he was surprised by the award. He added he was not one to stick with one division, but he worked with other divisions at Rockefeller. Mr. Perry felt the administrative staff has been supportive. He then talked about the different projects he was involved with at Rockefeller. Mr. Perry then stated he has had an enjoyable career and appreciated everyone. Mr. Gresham congratulated Mr. Perry and everyone for their awards. Chairman Samanie congratulated everyone for their awards and for their hard work.

**To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January** began with Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stating this month was the ending of the hunting seasons and their focus were on the deer and waterfowl seasons and litter enforcement. Total cases for the month were 1,512 citations with an additional 253 written warnings issued and agents helped with 19 public assists. The three Department airplanes flew a total of 106.7 hours for the month. There were 4 boating accidents in January with 1 injury and 0 fatalities. News Releases centered on 3 St. Tammany men cited for illegal night hunting violations in Fontainebleau State Park, night hunting cases on Dewey Wills WMA, and the Louisiana Operation Game Thief group held their Annual Meeting, reviewed cases from the last quarter and issued \$9,100 in rewards in 28 cases. This group began in 1984 and has issued more than \$250,000 in cash rewards to citizens of the state. Then Lt. Col. LaCaze noted an academy class of 9 would be graduating at the end of February.

Mr. Randy Myers presented the next 2 items, **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Changes to Hunting Season Dates** and **To receive and consider Notice of Intent on Changes to General and WMA Hunting Regulations**, together. These Notices of Intent would begin the process of establishing hunting seasons for next year and the following and public input would continue through the May 7 Commission Meeting. As of the April 2 Commission Meeting, no additional proposals may be added to these Notices of Intent. Changes included editorial, proposed adjustment to Area 4 deer season, increased opportunity to take feral hogs on several WMAs, a special shotgun season on coastal WMAs for the taking of hogs, allowing the use of UTVs, proposal to remove the daily permit and mandatory hunts on WMAs and proposed changes to Kisatchie National Forest lands to deer hunting and ATV use. General calendar adjustments were recommended for the 2009-2011 quail, rabbit, fall squirrel and spring squirrel seasons. For the deer season, Area 1 would only have calendar adjustments. There are no recommended changes for Areas 2 and 3. Area 4, which is primarily agricultural land with interspersed forests, would have calendar adjustment for the 2009-2010 season, but the staff recommended modifying the 2010-2011 season. Public comments have been received asking for a later season and so staff was recommending moving the season back one week with no additional days which would allow hunters to take advantage of the later rut while not impacting the deer herd. There will only be calendar adjustments for Areas 5, 6, 7 and 8 deer seasons. The modern firearm either-sex season in East and West Carroll Parishes would have no changes for the 2009-2010 season, but for the 2010-2011 season, in Area 4 this would change due to the recommended one week later season. Editorial changes included: the reference to muzzleloader was changed to primitive firearms; reference to bow to approved archery; reference to handicapped to physically challenged; the Fur and Refuge Division name was changed to Coastal and Nongame Resources Division; standardized the Department's name to LDWF; standardized wildlife management area to WMA; standardized reference to highways; changed the reference of unregulated quadrupeds to outlaw quadrupeds; any reference of unmarked hog was changed to feral hog; and clarified that some of the Corps of Engineers property allows the take of bobcat. Staff was also recommending eliminating the daily permit and mandatory check hunts on the WMAs which means there would only be self-clearing permits utilized and this will help monitor the species. With the elimination of the daily permit and mandatory hunts on the WMAs, the

provision allowing hunters to take antlerless deer on WMAs and not having to use any of their tags was deleted from the regulations. Commissioner Morrow asked if a hunters kills an antlerless deer on a WMA, he would have to use one of the tags from his license and Mr. Myers stated that was correct. Then Commissioner Morrow asked if a person hunts on DMAP and LADT lands, then another tag would be used and Mr. Myers again stated that was correct. Going on with the presentation, Mr. Myers noted there was confusion on when someone could enter a WMA, so the recommendation was that a person cannot enter a WMA no earlier than 4 AM unless otherwise specified and they must check out and exit a WMA no later than 2 hours after sunset. Language was deleted to clarify the confusion on requiring a permit for trapping. The Enforcement Division requested additional language on crossbows which will not allow these to be cocked and in the ready position in or on vehicles. A special shotgun season was requested for the take of feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs from February 16 to the end of March. The same hunter orange requirements for deer would be required for those participating in the special shotgun season. Adding one weekend of physically challenged wheelchair confined hunt was recommended for Floy McElroy WMA. A sentence was added on the use of permanent blinds or tree stands on WMAs which stated that "Natural vegetation was generally defined as natural branches that are 2 inches or less in diameter and includes any corner posts." Commissioner Oats suggested rewording that sentence to be "or corner posts" if the intention was not to allow the corner posts. Mr. Myers then recommended that quail and woodcock hunters and hunters participating in special dog seasons for rabbit, squirrel and feral hogs be required to wear a minimum of a hunter orange cap. Also, those hunters participating in the special shotgun season for feral hogs on the coastal WMAs must display 400 square inches of hunter orange and wear a hunter orange cap. At the request of the Commission, the process has begun to review the roads and trails to see if the use of utility type vehicles or utility terrain vehicles (UTV's) could be allowed on certain WMAs. Mr. Myers then gave the definition of a UTV which was very similar to the ATV definition. UTV's compared to an ATV has significantly higher weight limits as well as bigger in width and length. The UTV's would be restricted to marked UTV trails only and they could not be used to retrieve downed deer or hogs. Commissioner Morrow asked if this would include a Polaris or a mule and Mr. Myers answered yes. Chairman Samanie asked if there was any reference to foam-filled tires. Mr. Myers

stated that was not in the definition, but it could be considered. Commissioner Oats asked if the recommendation was weight of 1900 pounds and Mr. Myers again stated yes, and added that most of the UTV's start at 1500 pounds. Commissioner Oats then asked to receive a copy of the research materials on this recommendation. Going on, Mr. Myers asked that Pass-a-Loutre and Salvador WMAs be removed from the spring squirrel season regulation. Language was clarified on WMA seasons for small game and waterfowl. A change for Atchafalaya Delta was asking tent campers to utilize self-clearing permits. Big Colewa WMA would allow the take of feral hogs by properly licensed bowhunters from October 1 to January 31. The ability to take hogs with dogs was added to Bodcau, Dewey Wills and Jackson-Bienville WMAs and on Pearl River, Three Rivers and Red River WMAs, the request was for additional days and by permit only from the region office. Staff asked that the regulation no motorized vehicles allowed be deleted for Soda Lake WMA. An additional 7 days of either-sex primitive firearms was requested for Tunica Hills as well as limit camping to tents only and deleting the language that closed the North Tract and have it remain open. There would be no significant changes on the U.S. Corps of Engineers Indian Bayou Tract except where permits are located, having all other seasons closed except waterfowl during youth and physically challenged hunts, and adding that coyote, nutria and beaver can be taken by properly licensed hunters from October 1 to February 28. The big change for Old River Control and Lock area was to add an additional squirrel hunting season with dogs from December 12 to December 20. The addition of archery season to correspond with Area 6 season (October 1-October 15 bucks only, October 16-February 15 either-sex) was requested for Bonnet Carre as well as the incidental take of armadillos. Kisatchie National Forest recommended eliminating all deer hunting with dogs and have still hunting only; the regulation for hunting stands and tripods would be the same as for the Department WMAs and to restrict ATV travel. Commissioner Oats asked if the staff concurs with the federal hunting recommendations. Mr. Myers stated they met with the federal partners and concurred with their recommendations. Commissioner Morrow asked if last year Kisatchie went from 10 to 7 days for dog hunting and this year they were requesting still hunting only. Mr. Myers answered yes. The hunter orange provision for Kisatchie mirrored the Department's hunter orange requirement. Other changes for Kisatchie was training of deer dogs was prohibited year round and no firearms are allowed while training dogs; clarifying the language on

coyotes and armadillos; having a nighttime chase only season for raccoons and opossums and not allowing any firearms nor nighttime ATV travel. Seasons on Catahoula and Red Dirt were calendar adjustments only.

Following Mr. Myers presentation, Commissioner Morrow asked if the tagging regulations were included in these 2 Notices of Intent and he was told yes. Then he noted he has received a lot of comments on the tagging implementation system and did not want it to be over burdensome to the user groups. Commissioner Morrow felt there were tagging areas that needed to be revisited and asked that a Committee of the Commission be appointed to look at the regulations and maybe refine them. Chairman Samanie appointed Commissioner Morrow as Chairman of the Committee with Commissioner Sagrera and Commissioner Taylor to serve and Department staff of Col. Winton Vidrine and Mr. Jimmy Anthony. Commissioner Morrow stated he would set a meeting date.

Mr. Jim Caldwell, Director of Public Affairs, Recreation and Heritage, Kisatchie National Forest, stated the working relationship with the Commission and Department was renowned throughout the Forest Service. He noted that there are 192 million acres of National Forest lands and a founding principle for these lands was that hunting was not only allowed but promoted. With the regulations presented, some felt the intent was to first end dog-deer hunting, then to end all dogs on National Forest lands, then to outlaw guns and hunting all together. Mr. Caldwell noted that nothing could be further from the truth and have encouraged the public on all sides of the issue to make comments to the Commission through the comment period. The National Forest lands are multiple use and many people enjoy camping, hiking, bird watching, fishing and hunting and they are very compatible. But the one thing that the Forest Service receives many complaints on each year was dog-deer hunting. But Mr. Caldwell emphasized that they appreciate the sport of deer dog hunting. He added they were not significantly affecting any other hunting activity with dogs, this change would only affect deer dog hunting. Kisatchie National Forest lands are not contiguous and the private landowners do not want dogs on their land. With respect to allowing free-ranging dogs throughout the year, biologists have told the National Forest that it was not good to have dogs in the woods 365 days a year for deer and many other animals. Commissioner Oats also asked Mr. Caldwell for any information or research on UTV's be provided to him. Mr. Caldwell stated the

National Forest was entertaining the use of UTV's on their designated trails. Four wheelers and motorcycles can be used on designated trails only on all of the National Forest lands. Game retrieval was also not allowed on Kisatchie with four wheelers or motorcycles. The first study concerning UTV's was on whether the trails were wide enough and could the bridges hold up an UTV. The bridges are okay but not all of the trails are wide enough, commented Mr. Caldwell. He then noted that the Department's Enforcement agents recently received a grant to write litter tickets on National Forest lands and it was amazing the difference that has been made in just a few months. Mr. Caldwell expressed appreciation for the agents efforts.

Mr. Dave Moreland stated that he retired in 2007 so he could sit in his deer stand and not have the phone ring or worry about what meetings he has missed and he has done that. The calendar adjustments for the next 2 seasons will help him with his hunting. But after that, the calendar would work against the hunters so that the last week of January the deer season would be closed. As he has mentioned before, the rut for Area 2 occurs in November and December; but where he hunts in Area 1, the rut was in December and January and if that last week was not open, he would only be able to watch the deer run around. Mr. Moreland felt Area 6 hunters had the worst season with their rut occurring in January and February. The deer biologists have done a good job with a telemetry study. In order to eliminate problems with the calendar, he suggested doing away with the first week of primitive firearm hunting in Areas 1 and 6 and open the gun season the weekend prior to Thanksgiving in Area 1 and run it straight through, and in Area 6, open the gun season the first Saturday in October for 9 days and then reopen in December until the end of January which would give 2 weeks of primitive hunting in February. Mr. Moreland stated the Department has over 50 years of good deer harvest data and he hoped there were plans to continue getting that data.

Mr. Larry Robichaux began stating he hunts Area 6 around Attakapas, Sherburne, Spring Bayou and Indian Bayou and added that he really like Mr. Moreland's proposal on extending the season. He requested extending the still hunt only days in Area 6 to December 26 which would allow him more time to still hunt.

Mr. James Foster asked for a proposal to allow the hunting of hogs on private lands during nighttime hours. His land consists of 500 acres in St. Helena Parish and their game cameras has shown packs of hogs. The 11 members in their club only killed 7 deer for this season. Mr. Foster felt the problem with the hogs was hurting their deer population. Since they have failed capturing hogs with a trap, Mr. Foster asked they be allowed to hunt them after the gun season at night.

Mr. Jeff Foster requested the same proposal as the previous speaker.

Mr. Ronnie Hubenak stated he was in the same boat as Mr. Foster with their 500 acres in East Feliciana Parish. Their 16 members only killed 5 deer during this season since the deer left when the hogs came in. Mr. Hubenak agreed that they need to kill the hogs at night since they are not out during daylight hours. With it being allowed on some WMAs, he asked why can it not be done on private lands and leases.

Chairman Samanie asked if someone from Enforcement would like to comment on the hog request. Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stated they have met with the Wildlife Division to address the feral hog problems. A permit system was being developed for some controlled, limited harvest of feral hogs during nighttime hours when agricultural crop damage was occurring. He noted there could be a lot of problems associated with allowing people to go hunting at night with large caliber weapons. Lt. Col. LaCaze stated they have been working with the program to issue permits and try to help with the problem.

Mr. Ron Duplessis, representing Hunters Run Gun Club and American Gun Company, stated the Commission passed a primitive weapons law last year which he felt was a great law. He thought the law has added to the harvest of quality deer and licensing and participation of hunters through the primitive weapons season. Mr. Duplessis asked the Commission to consider adding a 35 caliber law similar to Mississippi which would allow the use of 35 Remington, the 358 Winchester and others. He noted he hunts Mississippi and Louisiana and felt there was a problem with hogs. He mentioned that Mississippi has adopted a law for nighttime hog hunting and various harvest. With proper review, Mr. Duplessis thought it a good measure to adopt hog

hunting at night and various ways of taking hogs to improve the deer population.

Mr. Gary Robichaux began by thanking the Commission for their past efforts in reducing the number of dog days on Kisatchie. The end result of the reduced days last season was a very much improved experience. He then urged the Commission to consider the request to reduce the number of deer dog days to 0. Mr. Robichaux then told of a pleasant experience he had with the deer tagging system.

Hearing no further discussions, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent on Changes to the Hunting Season and it was seconded by Commissioner Oats. Again Commissioner Oats stated he was concerned about the UTV weight and safety issue and again asked for information anyone may have on it. The motion passed with no opposition.

Next, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent on changes to the General and WMA Hunting Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it also passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notices of Intent are made a part of the record.)

## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of resident game birds and game quadrupeds.

## **Title 76**

## **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

## **PART XIX. HUNTING AND WMA REGULATIONS**

## **Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season**

### **§101. General**

The Resident Game Hunting Season regulations are hereby adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. A complete copy of the Regulation Pamphlet may be obtained from the Department.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 21:707 (July 1995), amended LR 22:585 (July 1996), LR 23:871 (July 1997), LR 24:1324 (July 1998), LR 25:1290 (July 1999), LR 26:1506 (July 2000), LR 27:1061 (July 2001), LR 28:1615 (July 2002), LR 29:1122 (July 2003), LR 30:1493 (July 2004), LR 31:1627 (July 2005), LR 32:1253 (July 2006), LR 33:1399 (July 2007), LR 34:1447 (July 2008), LR 35: .

### **§103. Resident Game Birds and Animals**

A. Shooting hours. One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

B. Consult Regulation Pamphlet for seasons or specific regulations on Wildlife Management Areas or specific localities.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Quail	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	10	20
Rabbit and Squirrel	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of October <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Day of February	8	16

Squirrel*	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 23 days	3	6
Deer	See Schedule	1 antlered and 1 antlerless (when legal)	6/season (3 antlered deer & 3 antlerless deer)

\*NOTE: Spring squirrel season is closed on the Kisatchie National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property. Some State Wildlife Management Areas will be open, check WMA season schedule.

#### C. Deer Hunting Schedule

Area	Archery	Primitive Firearms (All Either Sex Except as Noted)	Still Hunt (No dogs allowed)	With or Without Dogs
------	---------	---	---------------------------------	----------------------------

1	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Sun. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> Sat. before Thanksgiving Day EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> next to last Sun. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Jan.
---	--	--	--	---

2	<p><u>OPENS:</u> 1<sup>st</sup> day of Oct.  <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Next to last Sat. of Oct.  <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before last Sat. of Oct.</p> <p><u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after the last day of Modern Firearm Season in Jan.  <u>CLOSES:</u> After 7 days.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Last Sat. of Oct.  <u>CLOSES:</u> Tues. before 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Wed. during even numbered years EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Tues. in odd numbered years or Wed. during even numbered years before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.</p>	<p><u>OPENS:</u> Wed. before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. in odd numbered years and on Thurs. during even numbered years EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the Wed. before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. on odd years and Thurs. during even numbered years  <u>CLOSES:</u> 40 days after opening in odd numbered years or 39 days after opening in even numbered years</p>
---	--	--	--	--

3	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Sept. <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 15	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day  <u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> After 37 days	
4	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> <del>1<sup>st</sup></del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before <del>2<sup>nd</sup></del> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after <del>1<sup>st</sup></del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Mon. after <del>2<sup>nd</sup></del> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> <del>2<sup>nd</sup></del> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after <del>1<sup>st</sup></del> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Jan.	
5	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. (BUCKS ONLY)  <u>OPENS:</u> Day after Christmas Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> (BUCKS ONLY)	<u>OPENS:</u> Day after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec.	

6	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Feb. 15 (1 <sup>st</sup> 15 days are BUCKS ONLY)	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after the next to last Sun. of Jan. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last Sun. of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> Sat. before Thanksgiving Day EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov. and then it will close on the Fri. before the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Dec. EXCEPT when there are 5 Sats. in Nov., then it will open on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> Next to last Sun. of Jan.
7	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Last day of Jan.	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  <u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Nov.  <u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Nov. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	<u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> After 35 days

8	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Sept. <u>CLOSES:</u> Jan. 15	<u>OPENS:</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct.  <u>OPENS:</u> Mon. after Thanksgiving Day <u>CLOSES:</u> Fri. before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec.	<u>OPENS:</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Oct. <u>CLOSES:</u> Sun. after Thanksgiving Day	<u>OPENS:</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of Dec. <u>CLOSES:</u> After 37 days.
---	--	---	--	---

D. Modern Firearm Schedule (Either Sex Seasons)

<< Conversion error >>

Parish	Area	Modern Firearm Either-sex Days
East Carroll	Area 1 <del>New for</del> <del>2008</del> <del>2009</del>	Antlerless deer may be harvested during entire deer season on private lands (all segments included), east of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, south of La. 580 to U.S. 65, west of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.
East Carroll	Area 4 portion	<del>Nov. 8-9, 28-30, 2008</del> , <u>Opens 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November for 2 days and opens Friday after Thanksgiving Day for 3 days</u> , west of mainline Mississippi River Levee and north and west of La. 877 from West Carroll Parish line to La. 580, north of La. 580 to U.S. 65, east of U.S. 65 to Madison Parish line.
West Carroll	Area 5	<del>Nov. 28-30, 2008</del> <u>Opens Friday after Thanksgiving Day for 3 days.</u>

E. Farm Raised White-tailed Deer on Supplemented Shooting Preserves: Archery, Firearm, Primitive Firearms: October 1 - January 31 (Either-Sex).

F. Exotics on Supplemented Shooting Preserves: Either Sex, no closed season.

G. Spring Squirrel Hunting

1. Season Dates: Opens 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 23 days.
2. Closed Areas: Kisatchie National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property and all WMAs except as provided in Paragraph 3 below.
3. Wildlife Management Area Schedule: Opens 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 9 days on all WMAs except Fort Polk, Peason Ridge, ~~and~~ Camp Beauregard, Pass-a-Loutre and Salvador. Dogs are allowed during this season for squirrel hunting. Feral hogs may not be taken on Wildlife Management Areas during this season.
4. Limits: Daily bag limit is 3 and possession limit is 6.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:109(B) and R.S. 56:141(C).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 21:707 (July 1995), amended LR 22:585 (July 1996), LR 23:871 (July 1997), LR 24:1324 (July 1998), LR 25:1290 (July 1999), repromulgated LR 25:1526 (August 1999), LR 26:1506 (July 2000), LR 27:1061 (July 2001), LR 28:1615 (July 2002), LR 29:1122 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1521 (August 2003), LR 30:1494 (July 2004), LR 31:1627 (July 2005), LR 32:1254 (July 2006), LR 33:115 (January 2007), LR 33:1399 (July 2007), LR 34:1447 (July 2008), LR 35: .

Public hearing will be held at the following locations: March 10 beginning at 6:30 PM at the LDWF Region Office, 9961 Highway 80, Minden; March 17 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Ruston Civic Center, N. Trenton Street, Ruston; March 11 beginning at 6:00PM at the Alexandria City Hall Building, Murray Street, Alexandria; March 11 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Winnsboro City Court Building, 1308 Cornell Street, Winnsboro; March 10 beginning at 6:30 PM at the LSU Ag Center, 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles; March 12 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Houma Municipal Auditorium, 880 Verret Street, Houma; March 19 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Yambilee Festival Building, 1939 W. Landry, Opelousas; March 19 beginning at 6:30 PM at LDWF

Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge; and March 18 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 Second Street, Slidell. Also comments will be accepted at regularly scheduled Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meetings from March through May. Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2009 to Mr. Randy Myers, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Robert J. Samanie, III  
Chairman

## NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of resident game birds and game quadrupeds.

## **Title 76**

## **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

## **Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations**

## **Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season**

### **§111. General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations**

#### **A. Hunting Seasons and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Regulations**

1. The rules and regulations contained within this digest have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission under authority vested by Sections 115 and 116 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and are in full force and effect in conjunction with all applicable statutory laws. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has the authority to close or alter seasons in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

2. Pursuant to Section 40.1 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted monetary values which are assigned to all illegally taken, possessed, injured or destroyed fish, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and other wildlife and aquatic life. Anyone taking, possessing, injuring or destroying fish, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and other wildlife and aquatic life shall be required to reimburse the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF a sum of money equal to the value of the wildlife illegally taken, possessed, injured or destroyed. This monetary reimbursement shall be in addition to any and all criminal penalties imposed for the illegal act.

#### **B. Resident Game Birds and Animals**

1. Shooting hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

#### **C. Other Season Dates**

1. Turkey. Please refer to separate pamphlet.

2. Raccoon and Opossum. No closed season. Raccoon and opossum can be taken at night by one or more licensed hunters with one or more dogs and one .22 rimfire firearm. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum with .22 rimfire rifle, .36 caliber or smaller muzzleloader rifle or shotgun during daylight hours during the open rabbit season. Hunting from boats or motor vehicles is prohibited. No bag limit for nighttime or daytime raccoon or opossum hunting during the open trapping season except on certain WMAs as listed. The remainder of the year, the raccoon and opossum bag limit for daytime or nighttime is one per person per day or night. No one who hunts raccoons or opossums as prescribed above shall pelt during the closed trapping season nor sell skins or carcasses of raccoons and opossums taken during the open trapping season unless he is the holder of a valid trapping license which shall be required in addition to his basic hunting license. Pelting or selling carcasses is illegal during closed trapping season.

3. Nutria. On WMAs and private property nutria may be taken recreationally by licensed hunters from September 1 through the last day of February, during legal shooting hours by any legal hunting method with a daily limit of five. When taken with a shotgun, steel shot must be used. On WMAs during waterfowl seasons, nutria may be taken only with the use of shotguns with shot no larger than F steel, and during gun deer seasons, anyone taking nutria must display 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap or hat. Recreational nutria hunters must remove each nutria carcass in whole condition from the hunting area, except that nutria may be gutted. Possession of detached nutria parts, including nutria tails, by recreational hunters is illegal. Nutria harvested recreationally may not be pelted nor may such nutria or any nutria parts from recreationally taken nutria be sold, including the tail. Trespassing upon private property for the purpose of taking nutria or other furbearing animals is punishable by fines and possible jail time (R.S. 56:265). The Coastwide Nutria Control Program is a separate program and is in no way related to the nutria recreational season. For questions on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, call the New Iberia office (337) 373-0032.

4. Blackbirds and crows. The season for crows shall be September 1 through January 1 with no limit; however crows, blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles may be taken year round during legal shooting hours if

they are depredating or about to depredate upon ornamentals or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers as to cause a health hazard. Louisiana has determined that the birds listed above are crop depredators and that crows have been implicated in the spread of the West Nile virus in humans.

5. Pheasant. Open concurrently with the quail season; no limit.

6. Falconry. Special permit required. Resident and migratory game species may be taken except turkeys. Seasons and bag limits are the same as for statewide and WMA regulations. Refer to LAC 76:V.301 for specific Falconry Rules.

7. Licensed Hunting Preserve. October 1 - April 30. Pen-raised birds only. No limit entire season. Refer to LAC 76:V.305 for specific Hunting Preserve Rules.

8. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Land enrolled in the voluntary program will be assessed a \$25 registration fee and 5¢/acre fee. Deer management assistance tags must be in the possession of the hunter in order to harvest an antlerless deer. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported (including those taken on either-sex days and those taken with bow or muzzleloader). Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters. Failure to do so is a violation of R.S. 56:115. Failing to follow DMAP rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved. Refer to LAC 76:V.111 for specific DMAP Rules.

9. Landowner Assistance Deer Tag (LADT)

a. Eligibility for LADT is limited to the following landowners or lessees:

i. License Deer Farmers;

ii. Landowners or lessees with less than 500 acres who have verified deer depredation problems;

iii. Landowners with 40 acres or more enrolled in the Louisiana Forest Stewardship Program; and

iv. Landowners or lessees with 40 or more contiguous acres of forested or marsh land.

b. Each applicant will be assessed a \$25 administrative processing fee. Each hunter must have the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag in his possession while hunting on the property for which the tag was issued and immediately upon kill of an antlerless deer, the hunter must tag the animal through the hock. The deer must be tagged before it is transported from the site of kill and the tag will remain with the deer while the hunter is in route to his domicile. Antlerless deer harvested on property enrolled in LADT does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters. For more information, contact any Wildlife Division Region Office.

#### 10. Farm Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics on Licensed Supplemented Shooting Preserves

##### a. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is confined on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Hunting: In its different tenses and for purposes of this rule means to take or attempt to take, in accordance with R.S. 56:8.

Same as Outside: For purposes of this rule means hunting on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting, as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Supplemented Hunting Preserve: For purposes of this rule means any enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) with concurrence of the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)~~ and is authorized in writing by the LDAF and LDWF to permit hunting.

White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is confined on a Supplemented Hunting Preserve.

b. Seasons

i. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: consult the regulations pamphlet.

ii. Exotics: year round.

c. Methods of Take

i. White-tailed Deer: same as outside.

ii. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow and crossbow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than .22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, .44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only and other approved primitive firearms.

d. Shooting Hours

i. White-tailed Deer: same as outside.

ii. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

e. Bag Limit

i. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: same as outside.

ii. Exotics: No limit.

f. Hunting Licenses

i. White-tailed Deer: same as outside.

ii. Exotics: No person shall hunt any exotic without possessing a valid basic and big game hunting license.

g. Tagging. White-tailed Deer and Exotics: Each animal shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the LDAF. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

11. Bobcat. No person other than the holder of a valid big game license may take or possess bobcat, except licensed trappers who may take or possess bobcat during the open trapping season. A big game licensee shall only take bobcat during the time period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset with approved archery equipment, shotgun, muzzleloader or centerfire firearm. A big game licensee shall not take more than one bobcat per calendar year. This regulation applies only to property that is privately owned, ~~and state wildlife management areas~~ WMAs, and the Bayou des Ourses, Bodcau, Bonnet Carre, Indian Bayou, Loggy Bayou and Soda Lake tracts owned by the Corps of Engineers but does not apply to state wildlife refuges, the Kisatchie National Forest, or other federally owned refuges and lands. ~~owned by the Corps of Engineers.~~ On state ~~wildlife management areas~~ WMAs, the take of bobcat is restricted to those open seasons on the WMAs which require the respective legal weapons noted above.

D. Hunting-General Provisions

1. A basic resident or non-resident hunting license is required of all persons to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported by any other person any wild bird or quadruped. See information below for exceptions.

2. All persons born on or after September 1, 1969 must show proof of satisfactorily completing a Hunter Safety course approved by LDWF to purchase a Basic Hunting License, EXCEPT any active or veteran member of the United States armed services or any POST-certified law enforcement officer. Application for the exemption shall be filed in person at the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF main office building in the city of Baton Rouge. A person younger than 16 years of age may hunt without such certificate if he is accompanied by, and is under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older.

3. A big game license is required in addition to the basic hunting license to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported any deer. A separate wild turkey license is required in addition to the basic hunting license and the big game license to hunt, take, possess or cause to be transported any turkey.

4. Taking game quadrupeds or birds from aircraft or participating in the taking of deer with the aid of aircraft or from automobiles or other moving land vehicles is prohibited.

5. Methods of Taking Resident Game Birds and Quadrupeds

a. It is illegal to intentionally feed, deposit, place, distribute, expose, scatter, or cause to be fed, deposited, placed, distributed, exposed, or scattered raw sweet potatoes to wild game quadrupeds.

b. Use of a longbow (including compound bow and crossbow) and arrow or a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest shall be legal for taking all resident game birds and quadrupeds. Also, the use of a handgun, rifle and falconry (special permit required) shall be legal for taking all game species except turkey. It shall be illegal to hunt or take squirrels or rabbits at any time with a breech-loaded

rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber rimfire or a ~~muzzleloader rifle~~ primitive firearm larger than .36 caliber. During closed deer gun season, it shall be illegal to possess shotgun shells loaded with slugs or shot larger than BB lead or F steel shot while small game hunting.

c. Still hunting is defined as stalking or stationary stand hunting without the use of dog(s). Pursuing, driving or hunting deer with dogs is prohibited when or where a still hunting season or area is designated, and will be strictly enforced. Shotguns larger than 10 gauge or capable of holding more than three shells shall be prohibited. Plugs used in shotguns must be incapable of being removed without disassembly. Refer to game schedules contained within these regulations for specific restrictions on the use of firearms and other devices.

6. Nuisance Animals. Landowners or their designees may remove beaver and nutria causing damage to their property without a special permit. Water set traps and firearms may be used to remove beaver; nutria may be removed by any means EXCEPT that nutria cannot be taken by the use of headlight and gun between the hours of sunset and sunrise. With a special permit issued by the ~~Department~~ LDWE, beavers may be taken between one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise for a period of three consecutive calendar evenings from the effective date of the permit. For specific details contact a region office near you. Any nuisance beaver or nutria trapped or shot outside open trapping season cannot be pelted or sold. A trapping license is required to sell or pelt nuisance beavers or nutria taken during open trapping season. Squirrels found destroying commercial crops of pecans may be taken year-round by permit issued by the ~~Department~~ LDWE. This permit shall be valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Contact the local region office for details.

7. Threatened and Endangered Species - Louisiana black bear, Louisiana pearl shell (mussel), sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed sawback turtle, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, West Indian manatee, Florida panther, pallid sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Attwater's greater prairie chicken,

whales and red wolf. Taking or harassment of any of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.

8. ~~Unregulated~~ Outlaw Quadrupeds. Holders of a legal hunting license may take coyotes, ~~unmarked~~ feral hogs where legal, and armadillos year round during legal daylight shooting hours. The running of coyotes with dogs is prohibited in all turkey hunting areas during the open turkey season. Coyote hunting is restricted to chase only when using dogs during still hunting segments of the firearm and archery only season for deer. Foxes are protected quadrupeds and may be taken only with traps by licensed trappers during the trapping season. Remainder of the year "chase only" allowed by licensed hunters.

9. Hunting and/or Discharging Firearms on Public Roads. Hunting, standing, loitering or shooting game quadrupeds or game birds with a gun during open season while on a public highway or public road right-of-way is prohibited. Hunting or the discharge of firearms on roads or highways located on public levees or within 100 feet from the centerline of such levee roads or highways is prohibited. Spot lighting or shining from public roads is prohibited by state law. Hunting from all public roads and rights-of-way is prohibited and these provisions will be strictly enforced.

10. Tags. Any part of the deer or wild turkey divided shall have affixed thereto the name, date, address and big game license number of the person killing the deer or wild turkey and the sex of that animal. This information shall be legibly written in pen or pencil, on any piece of paper or cardboard or any material, which is attached or secured to or enclosing the part or parts. On lands enrolled in DMAP, deer management assistance tags must be attached and locked through the hock of antlerless deer, (including those taken with ~~bow, muzzleloader~~ approved archery and primitive firearms, and those antlerless deer taken on either-sex days) in a manner that it cannot be removed, before the deer is moved from the site of the kill.

11. Sex Identification. Positive evidence of sex identification, including the head, shall remain on any deer taken or killed within the State of Louisiana, or on all turkeys taken or killed during any special gobbler season when killing of turkey hens is prohibited, so long as such deer or turkey is kept in camp or field, or is in route to the domicile of its possessor, or until

such deer or turkey has been stored at the domicile of its possessor or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game.

#### E. General Deer Hunting Regulations

1. Prior to hunting deer, all deer hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain deer tags and have in possession when hunting deer. Immediately upon harvesting a deer, the hunter must tag the deer with the appropriate carcass tag and document the kill on the deer tag license. Within 72 hours the hunter must validate the kill and record the validation number on the license. Hunters harvesting deer on DMAP and LADT lands can validate deer per instructions by LDWF using the DMAP and LADT harvest data sheets. ~~Hunters on wildlife management areas can validate deer during mandatory deer check hunts, when deer check stations are in operation.~~ Hunters may validate deer by calling the validation toll free number or using the validation web site.

2. One antlered and one antlerless deer per day (when legal) except on National Forest Lands and some Federal Refuges (check refuge regulations) where the daily limit shall be one deer per day. Season limit is six, three antlered bucks and three antlerless deer (all segments included) by all methods of take, except antlerless harvest on property enrolled in DMAP and LADT does not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters ~~and except antlerless harvest on State Wildlife Management Areas during the daily permit deer hunts, when validated by LDWF personnel, does not count in the season bag limit for hunters.~~ Antlerless deer may be harvested during entire deer season on private lands (all segments included) except in the following parishes: West Carroll and portions of East Carroll. Consult regulations pamphlet, modern firearms table for either-sex days for these parishes. This does not apply to public lands ~~(wildlife management areas WMAs,~~ National Forest Lands, and Federal Refuges) which will have specified either-sex days.

3. A legal buck is a deer with visible antler of hardened bony material, broken naturally through the skin. Killing bucks without at least one visible antler as described above and killing does is prohibited except where specifically allowed and EXCEPT in Thistlethwaite ~~WMA Wildlife~~

~~Management Area~~ where a legal buck shall be defined as deer with at least 4 points on one side or a deer with unbranched antlers commonly referred to as spikes (no minimum length). To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and its length must exceed the length of its base. The beam tip is counted as a point but not measured as a point.

~~4. Deer hunting restricted to legal bucks only, except where otherwise allowed.~~

~~5~~ 4. Either-sex deer is defined as male or female deer. Taking or possessing spotted fawns is prohibited.

~~6~~ 5. It is illegal to hunt or shoot deer with firearms smaller than .22 caliber centerfire or a shotgun loaded with anything other than buckshot or rifled slug. Handguns may be used for hunting.

~~7~~ 6. Taking game quadrupeds or birds from aircraft, participating in the taking of deer with the aid of aircraft or from automobiles or other moving land vehicles is prohibited.

~~8~~ 7. Still hunting is defined as stalking or stationary stand hunting without the use of dog(s). Pursuing, driving or hunting deer with dogs or moving vehicles, including ATVs, when or where a still hunting season or area is designated, is prohibited and will be strictly enforced. The training of deer dogs is prohibited in all still hunting areas during the gun still hunting and archery only season. Deer hunting with dogs is allowed in all other areas having open deer seasons that are not specifically designated as still hunting only. Except in ~~wildlife management areas~~ WMAs, a leashed dog may be used to trail and retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer during legal hunting hours. Any dog used to trail or retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer shall have on a collar with owner's name, address, and phone number. In addition, a dog may be used to trail and retrieve unrecovered deer after legal hunting hours; however, no person accompanying a dog after legal hunting hours may carry a firearm of any sort.

~~9~~ 8. It is illegal to take deer while deer are swimming or while the hunter is in a boat with motor attached in operating position; however

the restriction in this paragraph shall not apply to any person who has lost one or more limbs.

~~10~~ 9. Areas not specifically designated as open are closed.

~~11~~ 10. Primitive Firearms Segment: (Special license and primitive firearms specifications apply only to the special state, WMA, National Forest and Preserves, and Federal Refuge seasons.) Still hunt only. Specific WMAs will also be open, check WMA schedule for specific details. Primitive firearms license required for resident hunters between the ages of 16 and 59 inclusive and non-residents 16 years of age and older. Either-sex deer may be taken in all deer hunting areas EXCEPT Area 5 and as specified on Public Areas. It is unlawful to carry a gun, other than a primitive firearm, including those powered by air or other means, while hunting during the special primitive firearms segment. Except, it is lawful to carry a .22 caliber rimfire pistol loaded with #12 shot (ratshot only).

a. Legal Primitive Firearms For Special Season: Rifles or pistols, .44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, use black powder or approved substitute only, take ball or bullet projectile only, including sabot bullets and may be fitted with magnified scopes. This includes muzzleloaders known as "inline" muzzleloaders.

b. Single shot, breech loading rifles, .38 caliber or larger, of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions or reintroductions of that type rifle having an exposed hammer that use metallic cartridges loaded either with black powder or modern smokeless powder and may be fitted with magnified scopes.

c. Special Youth Deer Shotgun Season on Private Land (either-sex): Youths 17 or younger may hunt deer with shotguns using slugs only during the Primitive Firearms Season in each deer hunting area.

~~12~~ 11. Archery Segment: Consult regulations pamphlet. WMA seasons are the same as outside except as noted below. Archery license required for resident bow hunters between the ages of 16 and 59 inclusive and non-residents 16 years of age and older. Either-sex deer may be taken

in all areas open for deer hunting EXCEPT when a bucks only season is in progress for gun hunting, and EXCEPT in Area 6 from October 1-15. Archer's must conform to the bucks only regulations. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs at anytime during archery season EXCEPT when bucks only seasons are in progress on the respective WMA. Also, archery season restricted on Atchafalaya Delta, Salvador, Lake Boeuf, and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs (SEE SCHEDULE).

a. Bow and arrow regulations: Longbow, compound bow and crossbow or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take for all properly licensed hunters. Hunting arrows for deer must have well-sharpened broadhead points. Bow and arrow fishermen must have a sport fishing license and not carry any arrows with broadhead points unless a big game season is in progress.

i. It is unlawful:

(a). to carry a gun, including those powered by air or other means, while hunting with bow and arrow during the special bow and arrow deer season EXCEPT it is lawful to carry a .22 caliber rimfire pistol loaded with #12 shot (ratshot) only.

(b). to have in possession or use any poisoned or drugged arrow or arrows with explosive tips.

(c). to hunt deer with a bow having a pull less than 30 pounds.

(d). to hunt with a bow or crossbow fitted with an infrared, laser sight, electrically-operated sight or device specifically designed to enhance vision at night (does not include non-projecting red dot sights) [R.S. 56:116.1.A.(3)].

~~13~~ 12. Hunter Orange. Any person hunting any wildlife during the open gun deer hunting season and possessing buckshot, slugs, a primitive firearm, or a centerfire rifle shall display on his head, chest and/or back a total of not less than 400 square inches of "HUNTER ORANGE". Persons hunting on privately owned, legally posted land may wear a hunter orange cap

or hat in lieu of the 400 square inches. These provisions shall not apply to persons hunting deer from elevated stands on property that is privately owned and legally posted or to archery deer hunters hunting on legally posted lands where firearm hunting is not allowed by agreement of the landowner or lessee. However, anyone hunting deer on such lands where hunting with firearms is allowed shall be required to display the 400 square inches or a hunter orange cap or hat while walking to and from elevated stands. While a person is hunting from an elevated stand, the 400 square inches or cap or hat may be concealed. WARNING: DEER HUNTERS ARE CAUTIONED TO WATCH FOR PERSONS HUNTING OTHER GAME OR ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES NOT REQUIRING "HUNTER ORANGE".

~~14~~ 13. Special ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged either-sex deer season on private land: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of October for 2 days. Restricted to individuals with Physically Challenged Hunter Permit.

~~15~~ 14. Special Youth Deer Hunt on Private Lands (Either-Sex). Areas 1, 4, 5 and 6 - last Saturday of October for 2 days; Area 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October for 2 days; and Areas 3, 7 and 8 - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of September for 2 days. Youths 17 or younger only. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. Legal firearms are the same as described for deer hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt.

#### F. Description of Areas

##### 1. Area 1

a. All of the following parishes are open: Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Franklin, Madison, St. Helena, Tensas, Washington.

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Catahoula - East of Boeuf River to Ouachita River, east of Ouachita River from its confluence with Boeuf River to LA 8, south and east of LA 8 southwesterly to Parish line.

ii. East Carroll - East of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of LA 877 from West Carroll Parish line to LA 580, south of LA 580 to US 65, west of US 65 to Madison Parish line.

iii. Grant - East of US 165 and south of LA 8.

iv. LaSalle - South of a line beginning where Little River enters Catahoula Lake following the center of the lake eastward to Old River then to US 84, east of US 84 northward to LA 8, south of LA 8 eastward to Parish line.

v. Livingston - North of I-12.

vi. Rapides - East of US 165 and north of Red River.

vii. St. Tammany - All EXCEPT that portion south of I-12, west of LA 1077 to LA 22, south of LA 22 to Tchefuncte River, west of Tchefuncte River southward to Lake Pontchartrain.

viii. Tangipahoa - North of I-12.

ix. West Feliciana - All EXCEPT that portion known as Raccourci and Turnbull Island.

c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:

i. Catahoula - South of Deer Creek to Boeuf River, east of Boeuf and Ouachita Rivers to LA 8 at Harrisonburg, west of LA 8 to LA 913, west of LA 913 and LA 15 to Deer Creek.

ii. East Carroll - East of mainline Mississippi River Levee and south and east of LA 877 from West Carroll Parish line to LA 580, south of LA 580 to US 65, west of US 65 to Madison Parish line.

iii. East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge - East of Thompson Creek from the Mississippi state line to LA 10, north of LA 10 from Thompson Creek to LA 67 at Clinton, west of LA 67 from Clinton to Mississippi state line, south of Mississippi state line from LA 67 to Thompson Creek. Also that portion of East Baton Rouge Parish east of LA 67 from LA 64 north to Parish Line, south of Parish Line from LA 64 eastward to Amite River, west of Amite River southward to LA 64, north of LA 64 to LA 37 at Magnolia, east of LA 37 northward to LA 64 at Indian Mound, north of LA 64 from Indian Mound to LA 67. Also, that portion of East Feliciana Parish east of LA 67 from parish line north to LA 959, south of LA 959 east to LA 63, west of LA 63 to Amite River, west of Amite River southward to parish line, north of parish line westward to LA 67.

iv. Franklin - All.

v. St. Helena - North of LA 16 from Tickfaw River at Montpelier westward to LA 449, east and south of LA 449 from LA 16 at Pine Grove northward to Rohner Road, south of Rohner Road to LA 1045, south of LA 1045 to the Tickfaw River, west of the Tickfaw River from LA 1045 southward to LA 16 at Montpelier.

vi. Tangipahoa - That portion of Tangipahoa Parish north of LA 10 from the Tchefuncte River to LA 1061 at Wilmer, east of LA 1061 to LA 440 at Bolivar, south of LA 440 to the Tchefuncte River, west of the Tchefuncte River from LA 440 southward to LA 10.

vii. Washington and St. Tammany - East of LA 21 from the Mississippi state line southward to the Bogue Chitto River, north of the Bogue Chitto River from LA 21 eastward to the Pearl River Navigation Canal, east of the Pearl River Navigation Canal southward to the West Pearl River, north of the West Pearl River from the Pearl River Navigation Canal to Holmes Bayou, west of Holmes Bayou from the West Pearl River northward to the Pearl River, west of the Pearl River from Holmes Bayou northward to the Mississippi state line, south of the Mississippi state line from the Pearl

River westward to LA 21. Also, that portion of Washington Parish west of LA 25 from the Mississippi state line southward to the Bogue Chitto River, then west of the Bogue Chitto River to its junction with the St. Tammany Parish line, north of the St. Tammany Parish line to the Tangipahoa Parish line, east of the Tangipahoa Parish line to the Mississippi state line, south of the Mississippi state line to its junction with LA 25.

viii. West Feliciana - West of Thompson Creek to Illinois-Central Railroad, north of Illinois-Central Railroad to Parish Road #7, east of Parish Road #7 to the junction of US 61 and LA 966, east of LA 966 from US 61 to Chaney Creek, south of Chaney Creek to Thompson Creek.

## 2. Area 2

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Union, Webster, Winn.

ii. EXCEPT: Kisatchie National Forest which has special regulations. Caney, Corney, Middlefork tracts of Kisatchie have the same regulations as Area 2, EXCEPT still hunting only for deer and EXCEPT National Forest Land within the Evangeline Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District described in Area 2 description shall be still hunting only.

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Allen - North of US 190 from parish line westward to Kinder, east of US 165 from Kinder northward to LA 10 at Oakdale, north of LA 10 from Oakdale westward to the parish line.

ii. Avoyelles - That portion west of I-49.

iii. Catahoula - West of Boeuf River to Ouachita River, west of Ouachita River from its confluence with Boeuf River to LA 8, north and west of LA 8 southwesterly to Parish line.

iv. Evangeline - All EXCEPT the following portions:  
east of I-49 to junction of LA 29, east of LA 29 south of I-49 to Ville Platte,  
and north of US 167 east of Ville Platte.

v. Grant - All EXCEPT that portion south of LA 8  
and east of US 165.

vi. Jefferson Davis - North of US 190.

vii. LaSalle - North of a line beginning where Little  
River enters Catahoula Lake, following the center of the lake eastward to Old  
River then to US 84, west of US 84 northward to LA 8, north of LA 8  
eastward to Parish line.

viii. Morehouse - West of US 165 (from Arkansas  
state line) to Bonita, north and west of LA 140 to junction of LA 830-4  
(Cooper Lake Road), west of LA 830-4 to Bastrop, west of LA 139 to  
junction of LA 593, west and south of LA 593 to Collinston, west of LA 138  
to junction of LA 134 and north of LA 134 to Ouachita Parish line at Wham  
Brake.

ix. Ouachita - All EXCEPT south of US 80 and east  
of Ouachita River, east of LA 139 from Sicard to junction of LA 134, south  
of LA 134 to Morehouse Parish line at Wham Brake.

x. Rapides - All EXCEPT north of Red River and  
east of US 165, south of LA 465 to junction of LA 121, west of LA 121 and  
LA 112 to Union Hill, and north of LA 113 from Union Hill to Vernon Parish  
line, and that portion south of Alexandria between Red River and US 167 to  
junction of US 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek exit, east of I-49 southward to  
parish line.

xi. Vernon - North of LA 10 from the parish line  
westward to LA 113, south of LA 113 eastward to parish line. Also the  
portion north of LA 465 west of LA 117 from Kurthwood to Leesville and  
north of LA 8 from Leesville to Texas state line.

c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:

i. Claiborne and Webster - Caney, Corney and Middlefork tracts of Kisatchie National Forest. (See Kisatchie National Forest Regulations).

ii. Ouachita - East of Ouachita River.

iii. Rapides - West of US 167 from Alexandria southward to I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, west of I-49 southward to Parish Line, north of Parish Line westward to US 165, east of US 165 northward to US 167 at Alexandria. North of LA 465 from Vernon Parish line to LA 121, west of LA 121 to I-49, west of I-49 to LA 8, south and east of LA 8 to LA 118 (Mora Road), south and west of LA 118 to Natchitoches Parish line.

iv. Vernon - East of Mora-Hutton Road from Natchitoches Parish line to Hillman Loop Road, south and east of Hillman Loop Road to Comrade Road, south of Comrade Road to LA 465, east and north of LA 465 to Rapides Parish line.

3. Area 3

a. All of Acadia, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes are open.

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Allen - South of US 190 and west of LA 113.

ii. Beauregard - West of LA 113 and east of LA 27 from the parish line northward to DeRidder and north of US 190 westward from DeRidder to Texas state line.

iii. Calcasieu - South of US 90 from Sulphur to Texas state line. Also east of LA 27 from Sulphur northward to the parish line.

- iv. Iberia - West of US 90 and north of LA 14.
  - v. Jefferson Davis - All EXCEPT north of US 190.
  - vi. Lafayette - West of I-49 and US 90.
  - vii. Rapides - South of LA 465 to junction of LA 121, west of LA 121 and LA 112 to Union Hill and north of LA 113 from Union Hill to Vernon Parish line.
  - viii. St. Landry - West of US 167.
  - ix. Vernon - West and north of LA 113, south of LA 465, east of LA 117 from Kurthwood to Leesville, and south of LA 8 from Leesville to Texas state line.
4. Area 4
- a. All of Richland parish is open.
  - b. Portions of the following parishes are open:
    - i. East Carroll - West of mainline Mississippi River Levee and north and west of LA 877 from West Carroll Parish line to LA 580, north of LA 580 to US 65, east of US 65 to Madison Parish line.
    - ii. Morehouse - East of US 165 (from Arkansas state line) to Bonita, south and east of LA 140 to junction of LA 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), east of LA 830-4 to Bastrop, east of LA 139 at Bastrop to junction of LA 593, east and north of LA 593 to Collinston, east of LA 138 to junction of LA 134 and south of LA 134 to Ouachita line at Wham Brake.
    - iii. Ouachita - South of US 80 and east of Ouachita River, east of LA 139 from Sicard to junction of LA 134, south of LA 134 to Morehouse line at Wham Bake.

5. Area 5

- a. All of West Carroll Parish is open.

6. Area 6

- a. All of the following parishes are open: Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge.

- b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

- i. Avoyelles - All except that portion west of I-49.

- ii. Evangeline - That portion east of I-49 to junction of LA 29, east of LA 29 south of I-49 to Ville Platte and north of US 167 east of Ville Platte.

- iii. Iberia - East of US 90.

- iv. Lafayette - East of I-49 and US 90.

- v. Livingston - South of I-12.

- vi. Rapides - South of Alexandria between Red River and US 167 to the junction of US 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.

- vii. St. Landry - East of US 167.

- viii. St. Mary - North of US 90 from Iberia Parish line eastward to Wax Lake Outlet, east of Wax Lake Outlet southward to Intracoastal Waterway, north of Intracoastal Waterway eastward to the Atchafalaya River, east of the Atchafalaya River southward to Bayou Shaffer, north of Bayou Shaffer to Bateman Lake, north and west of Bayou Chene from Bateman Lake to Lake Palourde.

ix. St. Tammany - That portion south of I-12, west of LA 1077 to LA 22, south of LA 22 to Tchefuncte River, west of Tchefuncte River southward to Lake Pontchartrain.

x. Tangipahoa - South of I-12.

xi. West Feliciana - West of Mississippi River, known as Raccourci and Turnbull Islands.

c. Still hunting only in all or portions of the following parishes:

i. Avoyelles - North of LA 1 from Simmesport westward to LA 115 at Marksville, east of LA 115 from Marksville northward to the Red River near Moncla, south and west of the Red River to LA 1 at Simmesport.

ii. Plaquemines - East of the Mississippi River.

iii. Rapides - South of Alexandria between Red River and US 167 to the junction of US 167 with I-49 at Turkey Creek Exit, east of I-49 southward to parish line.

iv. St. Bernard - All of the parish shall be still hunting only EXCEPT that portion of St. Bernard known as the spoil area between the MRGO on the east and Access Canal on the west, south of Bayou Bienvenue and north of Bayou la Loutre.

v. St. John - South of Pass Manchac from Lake Pontchartrain to US 51, east of US 51 from Pass Manchac to LA 638 (Frenier Beach Road). North of LA 638 from US 51 to Lake Pontchartrain, west of Lake Pontchartrain from LA 638 to Pass Manchac.

vi. St. Landry - Those lands surrounding Thistlethwaite WMA bounded north and east by LA 359, west by LA 10, and south by LA 103.

vii. HIGH WATER BENCHMARK CLOSURE. Deer hunting in those portions of Iberia, Iberville, St. Martin, and St. Mary parishes south of I-10, west of the East Guide Levee, east of the West Guide Levee, and north of US 90 will be closed when the river stage of the Atchafalaya River reaches 18 feet at Butte LaRose.

7. Area 7

a. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Iberia - South of LA 14 and west of US 90.

ii. St. Mary - All EXCEPT that portion north of US 90 from Iberia Parish line eastward to Wax Lake Outlet, east of Wax Lake Outlet southward to Intracoastal Waterway, north of Intracoastal Waterway eastward to the Atchafalaya River, east of the Atchafalaya River southward to Bayou Shaffer, north of Bayou Shaffer to Bateman Lake, north and west of Bayou Chene from Bateman Lake to Lake Palourde.

8. Area 8

a. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Allen - That portion east of LA 113 from the parish line to US 190, north of US 190 eastward to Kinder, west of US 165 northward to LA 10 at Oakdale and south of LA 10 from Oakdale westward to parish line.

ii. Beauregard - That portion east of LA 113. Also that portion west of LA 27 from parish line northward to DeRidder, south of US 190 from DeRidder to Texas state line.

iii. Calcasieu - That portion east of LA 27 from the parish line southward to Sulphur and north of US 90 from Sulphur to the Texas state line.

iv. Vernon - That portion east of LA 113 from the parish line northward to Pitkin and south of LA 10 from Pitkin southward to the parish line.

G. ~~Wildlife Management Area~~ WMA Regulations

1. General

a. The following rules and regulations concerning the management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

b. Citizens are cautioned that by entering a WMA managed by the LDWF they may be subjecting themselves and/or their vehicles to game and/or license checks, inspections and searches.

c. ~~Wildlife management area~~ WMA seasons may be altered or closed anytime by the ~~Department~~ LDWF Secretary in emergency situations (floods, fire or other critical circumstances).

d. Hunters may enter the WMA no earlier than 4:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified. ~~On days when daily permits are required, permit stations will open 2 hours before legal shooting hours.~~ Hunters must check out and exit the WMA no later than two hours after sunset, or as otherwise specified.

e. Lands within WMA boundaries will have the same seasons and regulations pertaining to baiting and use of dogs as the WMA within which the lands are enclosed; however, with respect to private lands enclosed within a WMA, the owner or lessee may elect to hunt according to the regular season dates and hunting regulations applicable to the geographic area in which the lands are located, provided that the lands are first enrolled in DMAP or LADT. Interested parties should contact the nearest LDWF region office for additional information.

f. Dumping garbage or trash on WMAs is prohibited. Garbage and trash may be properly disposed of in designated locations if provided.

g. Disorderly conduct or hunting under influence of alcoholic beverages, chemicals and other similar substances is prohibited.

h. Damage to or removal of trees, shrubs, hard mast (including but not limited to acorn and pecans), wild plants, non-game wildlife (including reptiles and amphibians) or any species of butterflies, skippers or moths is prohibited without a permit from the ~~Department~~ LDWE. Gathering and/or removal of soft fruits, mushrooms and berries shall be limited to 5 gallons per person per day.

i. Burning of marshes is prohibited. Hunting actively burning marsh prohibited.

j. Nature trails. Trails shall be limited to pedestrians only. No vehicles, ATVs, horses, mules, bicycles, etc. allowed. Removal of vegetation (standing or down) or other natural material prohibited.

k. Deer seasons are for legal buck deer unless otherwise specified.

l. Small game, when listed under the WMA regulations may include both resident game animals and game birds as well as migratory species of birds.

m. Oysters may not be harvested from any WMA, EXCEPT that oysters may be harvested from private oyster leases and State Seed Grounds located within a WMA, when authorized by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and upon approval by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

n. Free ranging livestock prohibited.

## 2. Permits

a. A WMA Hunting Permit is required for persons aged 18 through 59 to hunt on WMAs.

~~b. Daily. Daily permits when required shall be obtained at permit stations on or near each WMA after first presenting a valid hunting license to a Department employee. Hunters must retain permit in possession while hunting.~~

~~e~~ b. Self-Clearing Permits. A Self-Clearing Permit is required for ALL ACTIVITIES (hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, sightseeing, etc.) on WMAs unless otherwise specified. The Self-Clearing Permit will consist of three portions: CHECK IN, CHECK OUT and a Vehicle Tag. On WMAs where Self-Clearing Permits are required, all persons must obtain a WMA Self-Clearing Permit from an Information Station. The CHECK IN portion MUST be completed and put in a permit box BEFORE each day's activity on the day of the activity (EXCEPT if hunting from a private camp adjacent to the WMA being hunted or if camping on the WMA, users need only to check in once during any 72 hour period). Users may check-in one day in advance of use. The CHECK OUT portion must be carried by each person while on the WMA and MUST be completed and put in a permit box immediately upon exiting the WMA or within 72 hours after checking in if hunting from a private camp adjacent to the WMA being hunted or if camping on the WMA. EACH PERSON MUST leave the Vehicle Tag portion of his permit on the dashboard of the vehicle used to enter into the WMA in such a way that it can be easily read from outside of the vehicle. This MUST be done only when the vehicle is parked and left unattended on the WMA. If an ATV, boat or other type vehicle was used to enter the WMA, then the vehicle tag must be attached to that vehicle in such a manner that it can be readily seen and read. No permit is required of fishers and boaters who do not travel on a WMA road and/or launch on the WMA as long as they do not get out of the boat and onto the WMA. ~~When Mandatory Deer Checks are specified on WMAs, hunters must check deer at a check station. Call the appropriate Region office for the location of the deer check station on these WMAs.~~ (Self-Clearing Permits are not required for persons only traveling through the WMA provided that the most direct route is taken and no activities or stops take place.) ~~Hunters may enter the area no earlier than two hours before legal shooting time unless otherwise specified. Hunters must~~

~~checkout daily and exit the area not later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.~~

d.c. Persons using WMAs or other ~~department~~ LDWF administered lands for any purpose must possess one of the following: a valid Wild Louisiana stamp, a valid Louisiana fishing license, or a valid Louisiana hunting license. Persons younger than 16 or older than 60 years of age are exempt from this requirement. Also a Self-Clearing WMA permit, detailed above, may be required (available at most entrances to each WMA). Check individual WMA listings for EXCEPTIONS.

### 3. Special Seasons

a. Youth Deer Hunt. Only youths 17 or younger may hunt. All other seasons are closed EXCEPT ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged Seasons. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of a hunter safety certification, a valid Louisiana hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. Legal firearms are the same as described for deer hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt. Contact the appropriate region office for ~~special check station locations when daily permits are required and~~ maps of specific hunting areas. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs with youth hunts. Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth hunts. NOTE: Some hunts may be by pre-application lottery.

b. Youth Squirrel Hunt (on selected WMAs only). Only youths 17 or younger may hunt. Squirrel, rabbit, raccoon and opossum may be taken. Hogs may not be taken. No dogs allowed. All other seasons will remain open to other hunters. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety

course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. Self-clearing permits are required. Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth squirrel hunts.

c. Youth Mourning Dove Hunt. A youth mourning dove hunt will be conducted on specific WMAs and will follow the same regulations provided for youth deer hunts on the first or second weekend of the mourning dove season (Saturday and/or Sunday only). Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering youth mourning dove hunts.

d. ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged Season. An either-sex deer season will be held for hunters possessing a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit on WMAs during the dates specified under the individual WMA. Participants must possess a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit. Contact region office for permit application and map of specific hunting area. Consult the regulations pamphlet for WMAs offering ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged Seasons. Pointe-aux-Chenes will have an experimental Lottery ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged waterfowl hunt. Contact New Iberia Office, ~~Fur and Refuge~~ Coastal and Nongame Resources Division for details.

e. Turkey Lottery Hunts. Hunts restricted to those persons selected by lottery. Consult the regulations pamphlet for deadlines. All turkeys must be reported at self-clearing station. Contact Region Offices for more details. Consult separate turkey hunting regulations pamphlet for more details.

f. Waterfowl Lottery Hunts. Hunts restricted to those persons selected by lottery. Consult the regulations pamphlet for deadline. Consult regulations pamphlet for individual WMA schedules or contact any Wildlife Division Office for more details.

g. Mourning Dove Lottery Hunts. Consult regulations pamphlet for individual WMA schedules or contact any Wildlife Division Office for more details.

h. Trapping. Consult Annual Trapping Regulations for specific dates. All traps must be run daily. Traps with teeth are illegal. Hunter orange required when a deer gun season is in progress. ~~A permit is required to carry a firearm outside of the normal hunting season and is available at the Region Office.~~

i. Raccoon Hunting. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum, one per person per day, during daylight hours only, during the open rabbit season on WMAs. NIGHTTIME EXPERIMENTAL - All nighttime raccoon hunting where allowed is with dogs only. There is no bag limit. Self-clearing permit required.

j. Sport Fishing. Sport fishing, crawfishing and frogging are allowed on WMAs when in compliance with current laws and regulations EXCEPT as otherwise specified under individual WMA listings.

k. Additional ~~Department~~ LDWF Lands. The ~~Department~~ LDWF manages additional lands that are included in the WMA system and available for public recreation. Small tracts are located in Vernon, Evangeline, St. Helena and other parishes. These small tracts have been acquired from the Farmers Home Administration or other sources for conservation purposes. Contact the appropriate ~~Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF Region Office for specific information and any additional season dates.

#### 4. Firearms

a. Firearms having live ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder or clip when attached to firearms and crossbows cocked in the ready position are not allowed in or on vehicles, boats under power, motorcycles, ATVs, ATCs or in camping areas on WMAs. Firearms may not be carried on any area before or after permitted hours except in authorized camping areas and except as may be permitted for authorized trappers.

b. Firearms and bows and arrows are not allowed on WMAs during closed seasons EXCEPT on designated shooting ranges or as permitted for trapping. Bows and broadhead arrows are not allowed on WMAs EXCEPT during deer archery season, turkey season or as permitted for bowfishing.

c. Encased or broken down firearms and any game harvested may be transported through the areas by the most direct route provided that no other route exists EXCEPT as specified under ~~Wildlife Management Area~~ WMA listing.

d. Loaded firearms are not allowed near WMA check stations.

e. Centerfire rifles and handguns larger than .22 caliber rimfire, shotgun slugs or shot larger than BB lead or F steel shot cannot be carried onto any WMA EXCEPT during modern firearm deer season and during special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs (consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMA regulations).

f. Target shooting and other forms of practice shooting are prohibited on WMAs EXCEPT as otherwise specified.

g. Discharging of firearms on or hunting from designated roads, ATV trails and their rights-of-way is prohibited during the modern firearm and muzzleloader deer season.

## 5. Methods of Taking Game

a. Moving deer or hogs on a WMA with organized drivers and standers, drivers or making use of noises or noise-making devices is prohibited.

b. On ~~Wildlife Management Areas~~ WMAs the daily limit shall be one antlered deer and one antlerless deer (when legal) per day. Three antlered and three antlerless per season (all segments included) by all methods of take, ~~EXCEPT antlerless deer harvested on Wildlife Management Areas during hunts designated as Daily Permit Deer hunts do not count in the season bag limit for hunters. A numbered WMA tag must be affixed to the deer carcass by LDWF personnel and recorded in the official check station records.~~

c. Baiting or hunting over bait is prohibited on all WMAs (hogs included).

d. ~~Hunters who kill deer on WMAs that require daily permits must have deer checked at the check station on same day of kill.~~ Deer may not be skinned nor have any external body parts removed including but not limited to feet, legs, tail, head or ears before being checked out.

e. Deer hunting on WMAs is restricted to still hunting only. ~~No WMA will be open for deer during early still hunt season unless specified in the regulation pamphlet.~~

f. Construction of and/or hunting from permanent tree stands or permanent blinds on WMAs is prohibited. Any permanent stand or permanent blind will be removed and destroyed. A permanent blind is any blind using non-natural materials or having a frame which is not dismantled within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds with frames of wood, plastic, metal poles, wire, mesh, webbing or other materials may be used but must be removed from the WMA within two hours after the end of legal shooting time each day. Blinds made solely of natural vegetation and not held together by nails or other metallic fasteners may be left in place but cannot be used to reserve hunting locations. Natural vegetation is generally defined as natural branches that are 2 inches or less in diameter or corner posts. All decoys must be removed from the WMA daily. Permanent tree stands are any stands that use nails, screws, spikes, etc., to attach to trees and are strictly prohibited. Portable deer stands (those that are designed to be routinely carried by one person) may not be left on WMAs unless the stands are removed from trees and left in a non-hunting position (a non-hunting position is one in which a hunter could not hunt from the stand in its present position). Also, all stands left must be legibly tagged with the user's name, address, phone number and Big Game Hunting License number (or Lifetime License Number). No stand may be left on any WMA prior to the day before deer season opens on that WMA and all stands must be removed from the WMA within one day after the close of deer hunting on that WMA. Free standing blinds must be disassembled when not in use. Stands left will not reserve hunting sites for the owner or user. All portable stands, blinds, tripods, etc. found unattended in a hunting position or untagged will be

confiscated and disposed of by the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF. LDWF not responsible for unattended stands left on an area.

g. Physically Challenged Wheelchair Confined Deer and Waterfowl Hunting Areas: Special deer and waterfowl hunting areas, blinds and stands identified with LDWF logos, have been established for PCHP wheelchair confined hunters on ~~Wildlife Management Areas~~ WMAs. Hunters must obtain PCHP permits and are required to make reservations to use blinds and stands. PCHP wheelchair hunting areas are available on Alexander State Forest, Big Colewa Bayou, Buckhorn, Clear Creek, Elbow Slough, Floy McElroy, Jackson–Bienville, Ouachita, and Sherburne WMAs. Check WMA hunting schedules or call the LDWF Offices in Pineville, Ferriday, Lake Charles, Opelousas, Minden, Monroe or Baton Rouge for information.

h. Hunting from utility poles, high tension power lines, oil and gas exploration facilities or platforms is prohibited.

i. It is illegal to save or reserve hunting locations using permanent stands or blinds. Stands or blinds attached to trees with screws, nails, spikes, etc. are illegal.

j. Tree climbing spurs, spikes or screw-in steps are prohibited.

k. Unattended decoys will be confiscated and forfeited to the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF and disposed of by the ~~Department~~ LDWF. This action is necessary to prevent preemption of hunting space.

l. Spot lighting (shining) from vehicles is prohibited on all WMAs.

m. Horses and mules may be ridden on ~~Wildlife Management Areas~~ WMAs except where prohibited and except during gun seasons for deer and turkey. Riding is restricted to designated roads and trails depicted on WMA map, self-clearing permit is required. Organized trail rides prohibited EXCEPT allowed by permit only on Camp Beauregard. Hunting

and trapping from horses and mules is prohibited EXCEPT for quail hunting or as otherwise specified.

n. All hunters (including archers and small game hunters) EXCEPT waterfowl hunters and mourning dove hunters on WMAs must display 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap during open gun season for deer. Quail and woodcock hunters and hunters ~~Hunters~~ participating in special dog seasons for rabbit, ~~and~~ squirrel and feral hogs are required to wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap. All other hunters and archers (while on the ground) except waterfowl hunters also must wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap during special dog seasons for rabbit and squirrel and feral hogs. ALSO all persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display "Hunter Orange". Hunters participating in special shotgun season for feral hogs on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs must display 400 square inches of hunter orange and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap.

o. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

p. Archery season for deer. The archery season on WMAs is the same as outside and is open for either-sex deer EXCEPT as otherwise specified on individual WMAs. Archery season restricted on Atchafalaya Delta and closed on certain WMAs when special seasons for youth or ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged hunts are in progress. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific seasons.

q. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs at any time during archery season EXCEPT when bucks only seasons are in progress on the respective WMAs. Archers must abide by bucks only regulations and other restrictions when such seasons are in progress.

r. Primitive Firearms season for deer. Either-sex unless otherwise specified. See WMA deer schedule. EXCEPT youth 17 or younger may use shotgun with slugs during primitive firearms season on the WMA.

## 6. Camping

a. Camping on WMAs, including trailers, houseboats, recreational vehicles and tents, is allowed only in designated areas and for a period not to exceed sixteen (16) consecutive days, regardless if the camp is attended or unattended. Houseboats shall not impede navigation. At the end of the 16 day period, camps must be removed from the area for at least 48 hours. Camping area use limited exclusively to outdoor recreational activities.

b. Houseboats are prohibited from overnight mooring within WMAs EXCEPT on stream banks adjacent to ~~Department~~ LDWF-owned designated camping areas. Overnight mooring of vessels that provide lodging for hire are prohibited on WMAs. On Atchafalaya Delta WMA and Pass-a-Loutre, houseboats may be moored in specially designated areas throughout the hunting season. At all other times of the year, mooring is limited to a period not to exceed sixteen (16) consecutive days. Permits are required for the mooring of houseboats on Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta WMAs. Permits must be obtained from the New Iberia office.

c. Discharge of human waste onto lands or waters of any WMA is strictly prohibited by State and Federal law. In the event public restroom facilities are not available at a WMA, the following is required. Anyone camping on a WMA in a camper, trailer, or other unit (other than a houseboat or tent) shall have and shall utilize an operational disposal system attached to the unit. Tent campers shall have and shall utilize portable waste disposal units and shall remove all human waste from the WMA upon leaving. Houseboats moored on a WMA shall have a permit or letter of certification from the Health Unit (Department of Health and Hospitals) of the parish within which the WMA occurs verifying that it has an approved sewerage disposal system on board. Further, that system shall be utilized by occupants of the houseboats when on the WMA.

d. No refuse or garbage may be dumped from these boats.

e. Firearms may not be kept loaded or discharged in a camping area.

f. Campsites must be cleaned by occupants prior to leaving and all refuse placed in designated locations when provided or carried off by campers.

g. Non-compliance with camping regulations will subject occupant to immediate expulsion and/or citation, including restitution for damages.

h. Swimming is prohibited within 100 yards of boat launching ramps.

## 7. Restricted Areas

a. For your safety, ALL oil and gas production facilities (wells, pumping stations and storage facilities) are off limits.

b. No unauthorized entry or unauthorized hunting in restricted areas or refuges, unless otherwise specified.

8. Dogs. All use of dogs on WMAs, EXCEPT for bird hunting and duck hunting, is EXPERIMENTAL as required by law. Having or using dogs on any WMA is prohibited EXCEPT for nighttime experimental raccoon hunting, squirrel hunting, rabbit hunting, bird hunting, duck hunting, hog hunting and bird dog training when allowed; see individual WMA season listings for WMAs that allow dogs. Dogs running at large are prohibited on WMAs. The owner or handler of said dogs shall be liable. Only recognizable breeds of bird dogs and retrievers are allowed for quail and migratory bird hunting. Only beagle hounds which do not exceed 15 inches at the front shoulders and which have recognizable characteristics of the breed may be used on WMAs having experimental rabbit seasons.

## 9. Vehicles

a. An all-terrain vehicle is an off-road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight-750 pounds, length-85", and width-48". ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum

allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. Use of all other ATVs or ATV tires are prohibited on a WMA.

b. Utility Type Vehicle (UTV, also Utility Terrain Vehicle) is defined as any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, not legal for highway use, designed for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, traveling on four (4) or more low-pressure tires, with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight-1900 pounds, length-128" and width-68". UTV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi. UTV's are commonly referred to as side by sides and may include golf carts.

~~b~~ c. Vehicles having wheels with a wheel-tire combination having a radius of 17 inches or more from the center of the hub (measured horizontal to ground) are prohibited.

~~c~~ d. The testing, racing, speeding or unusual maneuvering of any type of vehicle is prohibited within ~~wildlife management areas~~ WMAs due to property damages resulting in high maintenance costs, disturbance of wildlife and destruction of forest reproduction.

~~d~~ e. Tractor or implement tires with farm tread designs R1, R2 and R4 known commonly as spade or lug grip types are prohibited on all vehicles.

~~e~~ f. Airboats, aircraft, personal water craft, "mud crawling vessels" (commonly referred to as crawfish combines which use paddle wheels for locomotion) and hover craft are prohibited on all WMAs and Refuges. Personal water craft are defined as a vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel. Personal water craft allowed on designated areas of Alexander State Forest WMA.

~~f~~ g. Driving or parking vehicles on food or cover plots and strips is prohibited.

~~g~~ h. Blocking the entrance to roads and trails is prohibited.

~~h~~ i. Licensed motorized vehicles (LMVs) legal for highway use, including motorcycles, are restricted entirely to designated roads as indicated on WMA maps. UTVs are restricted to marked UTV trails only. ATVs are restricted to marked ATV trails only, EXCEPT when WMA roads are closed to LMVs. ATVs may then use those roads when allowed. WMA maps available at all region offices. This restriction does not apply to bicycles. NOTE: All ATV and UTV trails are marked with signs and/or paint, but not all ATV and UTV trails appear on WMA maps.

~~i~~ j. Use of special ATV trails for ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged persons is restricted to special ATV ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged permittees. ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged ATV permittees are restricted to ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged ATV trails or other ATV trails only as indicated on WMA maps or as marked by sign and/or paint. Persons 60 years of age and older, with proof of age, are also allowed to use special ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged trails and need not obtain a permit. However, these persons must abide by all rules in place for these trails. ~~Handicapped~~ Physically Challenged persons under the age of 60 must apply for and obtain a Physically Challenged Hunter Program Permit from the ~~Department~~ LDWF.

~~j~~ k. Entrances to ATV trails will be marked with peach colored paint. Entrances to ~~handicapped~~ Physically Challenged-only ATV trails will be marked with blue colored paint. Entrances to ATV trails that are open all year long will be marked with purple paint. The end of all ATV trails will be marked by red paint. WMA maps serve only as a general guide to the route of most ATV trails, therefore all signage and paint marking as previously described will be used to determine compliance. Deviation from this will constitute a violation of WMA rules and regulations.

~~k~~ l. Roads and trails may be closed due to poor condition, construction or wet weather.

~~l~~ m. ATVs, and motorcycles cannot be left overnight on WMAs EXCEPT on designated camping areas. ATVs are prohibited from two

hours after sunset to 4:00 AM, EXCEPT raccoon hunters may use ATVs during nighttime raccoon take seasons only. ATVs are prohibited from March 1 through August 31 EXCEPT squirrel hunters are allowed to use ATV trails during the spring squirrel season on the WMA and except certain trails may be open during this time period to provide access for fishing or other purposes and some ATV trails will be open all year long on certain WMAs.

~~m. n.~~ CAUTION: Many ~~Department LDWE~~-maintained roadways on WMAs are unimproved and substandard. A maximum 20 mph speed limit is recommended for all land vehicles using these roads.

~~n. o.~~ Hunters are allowed to retrieve their own downed deer and hogs with the aid of an ATV except on Thistlethwaite and Sherburne WMAs under the following conditions:

- i. No firearms or archery equipment is in possession of the retrieval party or on the ATV;
- ii. The retrieval party may consist of no more than one ATV and one helper;
- iii. ATVs may not be used to locate or search for wounded game or for any other purpose than retrieval of deer and hogs once they have been legally harvested and located.
- iv. UTV's may not be used to retrieve downed deer or hogs.

#### 10. Commercial Activities.

a. Hunting Guides/Outfitters: No person or group may act as a hunting guide, outfitter or in any other capacity for which they are paid or promised to be paid directly or indirectly by any other individual or individuals for services rendered to any other person or persons hunting on any ~~Wildlife Management Area WMA~~, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club memberships.

b. Except for licensed activities otherwise allowed by law, commercial activities are prohibited without a permit issued by the Secretary of the ~~Department~~ LDWF.

c. Commercial fishing. Permits are required of all commercial fishermen using Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre and Spring Bayou WMAs. Gill nets or trammel nets and the take or possession of grass carp are prohibited on Spring Bayou WMA. Drag seines (except minnow and bait seines) are prohibited EXCEPT experimental bait seines allowed on Dewey Wills WMA north of LA 28 in Diversion Canal. Commercial fishing is prohibited during regular waterfowl seasons on Grand Bay, Silver Lake and Lower Sunk Lake on Three Rivers WMA. Commercial fishing is prohibited on Salvador/Timken, Ouachita and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs EXCEPT commercial fishing on Pointe-aux-Chenes is allowed in Cut Off Canal and Wonder Lake. No commercial fishing activity shall impede navigation and no unattended vessels or barges will be allowed. Non-compliance with permit regulations will result in revocation of commercial fishing privileges for the period the license is issued and one year thereafter. Commercial fishing is allowed on Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta WMAs. See Pass-a-Loutre for additional commercial fishing regulations on mullet.

11. ~~Wildlife Management Areas~~ WMAs Basic Season Structure. For season dates, bag limits, shooting hours, special seasons and other information consult the annual regulations pamphlet for specific details.

12. Resident Small Game (squirrel, rabbit, quail, mourning dove, woodcock, snipe, rail and gallinule). Same as outside EXCEPT closed during modern firearm either-sex deer seasons on certain WMAs (See WMA schedule) and EXCEPT non-toxic shot must be used for rail and gallinule. Consult regulations pamphlet. Unless otherwise specified under a specific WMA hunting schedule, the use of dogs for rabbit and squirrel hunting is prohibited. Spring squirrel season with or without dogs: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May for 9 days. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMAs.

13. Waterfowl (ducks, geese and coots). Consult regulations pamphlet. Hunting after 2 p.m. prohibited on all WMAs EXCEPT for Atchafalaya Delta, Biloxi, Lake Boeuf, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes,

Salvador/Timken and Wisner WMAs. Consult specific WMA regulations for shooting hours on these WMAs.

14. Archery. Consult regulations pamphlet.

15. Hogs. Consult regulations pamphlet for specific WMA regulations. ~~Unmarked Feral~~ hogs may be taken during any legal hunting season, EXCEPT during the spring squirrel season, on designated WMAs by properly licensed hunters using only guns or bow and arrow legal for specified seasons in progress. Hunters may harvest hogs during the month of March on Pass-a-Loutre WMA only by using shotguns with shot no larger than BB lead or F steel, or .22 caliber rimfire firearms. Hogs may not be taken with the aid of dogs, EXCEPT ~~unmarked feral~~ hogs may be taken with the aid of dogs on Bodcau, Dewey Wills, Jackson-Bienville, Pearl River, Red River and Three Rivers WMAs (consult Bodcau, Dewey Wills, Jackson-Bienville, Pearl River, Red River and Three Rivers WMAs regulations) by permit from either the Minden, Pineville, Baton Rouge, or Ferriday Offices and all hogs must be killed immediately and may not be transported live under any conditions and hunters may use centerfire pistols in addition to using guns allowed for season in progress. Additionally, feral hogs may be taken on Atchafalaya Delta, Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe-aux-Chenes and Salvador WMAs from February 16 through March 31 with shotguns loaded with buckshot or slugs.

16. Outlaw Quadrupeds and Birds. Consult regulations pamphlet. During hunting seasons specified on WMAs, except the turkey and spring squirrel seasons, take of outlaw quadrupeds and birds, with or without the use of electronic calls, is allowed by properly licensed hunters and only with guns or bows and arrows legal for season in progress on WMA. However, crows, blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds may not be taken before September 1 or after January 1.

17. ~~Wildlife Management Areas~~ WMAs Hunting Schedule and Regulations:

a. Acadiana Conservation Corridor.

b. Alexander State Forest. From December through February all hunters must check daily with the Office of Forestry for

scheduled burning activity. No hunting or other activity will be permitted in burn units the day of the burning. Call 318-487-5172 or 318-487-5058 for information on burning schedules. Vehicles restricted to paved and graveled roads. No parking on or fishing or swimming from bridges. No open fires EXCEPT in recreation areas.

c. Atchafalaya Delta. Water control structures are not to be tampered with or altered by anyone other than employees of the ~~Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ LDWF at any time. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited EXCEPT as permitted for authorized WMA trappers. Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.

d. Attakapas.

e. Bayou Macon. All night activities prohibited except as otherwise provided.

f. Bayou Pierre

g. Bens Creek

h. Big Colewa Bayou. All nighttime activities prohibited.

i. Big Lake.

j. Biloxi.

k. Bodcau.

l. Boeuf.

m. Buckhorn.

n. Camp Beauregard. Daily military clearance required for all recreational users. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. All game harvested must be reported on self-clearing checkout permit. Retriever training allowed on selected portions of

the WMA. Contact the Region office for specific details. No hunting in restricted areas.

- o. Clear Creek (formerly Boise-Vernon).
- p. Dewey W. Wills. Crawfish: 100 pounds per person per day.
- q. Elbow Slough. Steel shot only for all hunting. All motorized vehicles prohibited.
- r. Elm Hall. No ATVs allowed.
- s. Floy Ward McElroy.
- t. Fort Polk. Daily military clearance required to hunt or trap. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. New special regulations apply to ATV users.
- u. Grassy Lake. Commercial Fishing: Permitted EXCEPT on Smith Bay, Red River Bay and Grassy Lake proper on Saturday and Sunday and during waterfowl season. Permits available from area supervisor at Spring Bayou headquarters or Opelousas Region Office. No hunting in restricted area.
- v. Jackson-Bienville. Beginning September 1, 2004, ATVs are allowed ONLY on non-public maintained gravel roads and marked ATV trails.
- w. Joyce. Swamp Walk: Adhere to all WMA rules and regulations. No loaded firearms or hunting allowed within 100 yards of walkways. Check hunting schedule and use walkway at your own risk.
- x. Lake Boeuf. Hunting allowed until 12:00 noon on all game. All nighttime activities prohibited.
- y. Lake Ramsay. Foot traffic only - all vehicles restricted to Parish Roads.

- z. Little River.
- aa. Loggy Bayou.
- bb. Manchac. Crabs: No crab traps allowed. Attended lift nets are allowed.
- cc. Maurepas Swamp. No loaded firearms or hunting allowed within 100 yards of Nature Trail.
- dd. Ouachita. Waterfowl Refuge: North of LA 15 closed to all hunting, fishing and trapping and ATV use during duck season including early teal season. Crawfish: 100 pounds per person per day limit. Night crawfishing prohibited. No traps or nets left overnight. Commercial Fishing: Closed. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided.
- ee. Pass-a-Loutre. Commercial Fishing: Same as outside. Commercial mullet fishing open only in: South Pass, Pass-a-Loutre, North Pass, Southeast Pass, Northeast Pass, Dennis Pass, Johnson Pass, Loomis Pass, Cadro Pass, Wright Pass, Viveats Pass, Cognevich Pass, Blind Bay, Redfish Bay, Garden Island Bay, Northshore Bay, East Bay (west of barrier islands) and oil and gas canals as described on the ~~Department~~ LDWF Pass-a-Loutre WMA map. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited on this area. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. Mudboats or air-cooled propulsion engines greater than 36 horsepower are prohibited on the WMA.
- ff. Pearl River. All roads closed 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. to all vehicles. Old Hwy. 11 will be closed when river gauge at Pearl River, Louisiana, reaches 16.5 feet. All hunting will be closed when the river stage at Pearl River reaches 16.5 feet except waterfowl hunting south of Hwy. 90. No hunting in the vicinity of Nature Trail. Observe "No Hunting" signs. Rifle range open Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a fee.
- gg. Peason Ridge. Daily military clearance required to hunt or trap. Registration for use of Self-Clearing Permit required once per year. Special federal regulations apply to ATV users.

hh. Pointe-aux-Chenes. Hunting until 12 noon on ALL GAME, EXCEPT for mourning dove hunting and youth lottery deer hunt as specified in regulation pamphlet. Point Farm: Gate will be open all weekends during month of February. No motorized vessels allowed in the drainage ditches. Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be allowed. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) may be taken for bait. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes only. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the ~~wildlife management area~~ WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited. All boats powered by engines having horsepower ratings above 25 h.p. are not allowed in the Grand Bayou, Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes water management units. Public is permitted to travel anytime through the WMA for access purposes only, in the waterways known as Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue and Grand Bayou Blue unless authorized by the ~~Department~~ LDWF. All other motorized vehicles, horses and mules are prohibited unless authorized by the ~~Department~~ LDWF.

ii. Pomme de Terre. Commercial Fishing: permitted Monday through Friday, EXCEPT closed during duck season. Commercial fishing permits available from area supervisor, Opelousas Region Office or Spring Bayou headquarters. Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT allowed only after 2 p.m. only during waterfowl season. Crawfish: March 15 - July 31, recreational only, 100 lbs. per boat or group daily.

jj. Red River. Recreational crawfishing allowed on Yakey Farms wetland restoration projects February 1 to the last day of February, 100 pounds per person per day, maximum of five wire traps per person. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed.

kk. Russell Sage. Transporting trash or garbage on WMA roads is prohibited. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided. Internal combustion engines and craft limited to 10 h.p. rating or less in the Greentree Reservoirs. NOTE: All season dates on Chauvin Tract (U.S. 165 North) same as outside, EXCEPT still hunt only and EXCEPT deer hunting restricted to archery only. All vehicles including ATVs prohibited.

## ll. Sabine.

mm. Sabine Island. Sabine Island boundaries are Sabine River on the west, Cut-Off Bayou on the north, and Old River and Big Bayou on the south and east.

nn. Salvador/Timken. Hunting until 12 noon only for all game. All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging. Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum may be taken for bait. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes only. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none of the lines are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the ~~wildlife management area~~ WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited. Boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 h.p. are permitted only in oil company access canals, Louisiana Cypress Canal, the Netherlands Pond including the West Canal, Lakes - "Baie Des Chactas" and "Baie du Cabanage" and the Rathborne Access ditch. Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with four cylinders or less is permitted in interior ditches from first Saturday in September through January and may be further permitted. Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities which cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited. ATVs, ATCs and motorcycles prohibited on this area.

oo. Sandy Hollow. Bird Dog Training: Consult regulation pamphlet. Wild birds only (use of pen-raised birds prohibited). Bird Dog Field Trials: Permit required from Baton Rouge Region Office. Horseback Riding: Self-Clearing Permit required. Organized trail rides prohibited. Riding allowed only on designated roads and trails depicted on WMA map. Horses and mules are specifically prohibited during turkey and gun season for deer EXCEPT as allowed for bird dog field trials. No horses and mules on green planted areas.

pp. Sherburne. Crawfishing: Recreational crawfishing only on the South Farm Complexes. Crawfish harvest limited to 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft allowed on farm complex. Commercial crawfishing not allowed. Retriever training allowed on selected portions of the WMA. Contact the Region office for specific details. Vehicular traffic prohibited on east Atchafalaya River levee within Sherburne WMA boundaries. Rifle and Pistol Range open daily. Skeet ranges open by appointment only, contact Hunter Education Office. No trespassing in restricted area behind ranges. Note: Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land holdings adjacent to the Sherburne ~~Wildlife Management Area~~ WMA will have the same rules and regulations as Sherburne WMA. No hunting or trapping in restricted area.

qq. Sicily Island Hills.

rr. Soda Lake. No motorized vehicles allowed. Bicycles allowed. All trapping and hunting prohibited EXCEPT archery hunting for deer and falconry.

ss. Spring Bayou. Commercial Fishing: permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT slat traps and hoop nets permitted any day and except gill or trammel nets or the take or possession of grass carp are prohibited. Permits available from area supervisor or Opelousas Region Office. Closed until after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season. Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT allowed only after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season. Crawfish: recreational only. No hunting allowed in headquarters area. Only overnight campers allowed in the improved Boggy Bayou Camping area. Rules

and regulations posted at camp site. A fee is assessed for use of this campsite. Water skiing allowed only in Old River and Grand Lac.

tt. Tangipahoa Parish School Board. No horseback riding during gun season for deer or turkey. ATVs are not allowed.

uu. Thistlethwaite. All motorized vehicles restricted to improved roads only. All users must enter and leave through main gate only. No entry into restricted areas.

vv. Three Rivers.

ww. Tunica Hills. All vehicles restricted to Parish roads. Access to restricted areas is unauthorized. Refer to WMA map. ~~Camping prohibited on area limited to tents only. North of Hwy. 66 (North Tract) closed to all users the day after turkey season closes to August 31.~~

xx. Union. All nighttime activities prohibited except as otherwise provided.

yy. West Bay.

zz. Wisner.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:1279 (July 1999), amended LR 26:1494 (July 2000), LR 27:1049 (July 2001), LR 28:1603 (July 2002), LR 29:1124 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1522 (August 2003), amended LR 30:1495 (July 2004), LR 31:1611 (July 2005), LR 32:1251 (July 2006), LR 33:1382 (July 2007), LR 34:1429 (July 2008), LR 35: .

Public hearing will be held at the following locations: March 10 beginning at 6:30 PM at the LDWF Region Office, 9961 Highway 80, Minden; March 17 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Ruston Civic Center, N. Trenton Street, Ruston; March 11 beginning at 6:00PM at the Alexandria City Hall Building, Murray Street, Alexandria; March 11 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Winnsboro City

Court Building, 1308 Cornell Street, Winnsboro; March 10 beginning at 6:30 PM at the LSU Ag Center, 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles; March 12 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Houma Municipal Auditorium, 880 Verret Street, Houma; March 19 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Yambilee Festival Building, 1939 W. Landry, Opelousas; March 19 beginning at 6:30 PM at LDWF Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge; and March 18 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 Second Street, Slidell. Also comments will be accepted at regularly scheduled Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meetings from March through May. Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2009 to Mr. Randy Myers, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Robert J. Samanie, III  
Chairman

**To receive and consider Resolution and Notice of Intent to Establish a Procedure to Add New Species to the List of Domesticated Aquatic Organisms** was handled by Mr. Gary Tilyou. In the 2008 Legislative Session, an Act gave the aquaculture business back to the Department except for crawfish and catfish. With that Act came additional regulations that needed to be passed. The first regulation passed by the Commission was in August 2008 which established a list of species that could be raised in aquaculture. The second step was this Notice of Intent which would establish a procedure to add new species to the list. The steps

in the procedure were for the Department to first develop an application; the applicant would then have “homework” to do such as listing a species tolerances to saltwater, where would the broodstock come from and how the operation would proceed. Next, the application would be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Office of Fisheries, it would then be passed onto either the Marine Fisheries Division or the Inland Fisheries Division to review. A Technical Committee would be developed to determine whether the requested species was worth the risk to the State and formalize a recommendation and forward it to the Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary would forward it to the Department Secretary who would decide if it should be sent onto the Commission. If it does go before the Commission for consideration, Mr. Tilyou stated staff would prepare a Notice of Intent for that species to be raised in aquaculture. Hearing no discussion, Commissioner Oats made a motion to adopt the Resolution, it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera and passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent are made a part of the record.)

#### RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES AND  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
February 5, 2009

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission are responsible for managing and protecting the fisheries resources of the state and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority to approve the fish species allowed in aquaculture and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has the authority to regulate the importation, possession or sale of game fish species and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adopt a procedure for approving new species of domesticated aquatic organisms for use in aquaculture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby promulgate a Notice of Intent, attached to and made a part hereof, to provide a procedure for approving new domesticated aquatic organisms for use in aquaculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the Final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statements, the filing of the Notice of Intent and Final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

-----  
-----  
Robert J. Samanie, III, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries  
Commission

Robert J. Barham, Secretary  
Department of Wildlife &  
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby proclaim their intent to establish a procedure for adding a new species to the list of domesticated aquatic organisms.

**Title 76**

**WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life**

**Chapter 9. Aquaculture**

## **§905. Domesticated Aquatic Organisms**

### A. Procedures for Approving a New Species of Domesticated Aquatic Organism

1. An application to consider a new aquatic species shall be made to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries. The applicant should include the following information:

- a. American Fisheries Society approved species and common name(s);
- b. Intended use or uses;
- c. Biology, including environmental tolerances, diseases and life history;
- d. Sources of broodstock;
- e. References;
- f. Location of proposed facility; and
- g. Design and operation of proposed aquaculture facility.

2. The Assistant Secretary will forward the application to the appropriate fisheries division. Freshwater species will be handled by the Inland Fisheries Division and saltwater species will be handled by the Marine Fisheries Division, regardless of where the species is proposed to be raised.

3. The Division Administrator may request the applicant to provide additional information.

4. The Division will convene a technical committee of individuals, including enforcement division representation, with sufficient expertise to consider the application.

5. The technical committee will be responsible for evaluating all relevant information regarding the species. The committee will consider approving a new aquatic species by evaluating the potential negative risks the new species might have on native species, their habitats, and human health. The committee will also consider mitigation measures that reduce risk. The committee will ultimately provide a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries to either deny the applicant's request or approve the request with mitigating requirements.

6. The Assistant Secretary, through a deliberative process, will determine whether to recommend to the Secretary that the species be approved as a domesticated aquatic organism and under what mitigating measures. If approved by the Secretary, a formal request will be made to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in the form of a Notice of Intent.

B A. The following is a list of "Domesticated Aquatic Organisms" approved for use in aquaculture:

1. Shadow bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*) not exceeding a maximum total length of three inches;
2. White bass (*Morone chrysops*) not exceeding a maximum total length of three inches;
3. Yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*) not exceeding a maximum total length of three inches;
4. Crappie (*Pomoxis spp.*) not exceeding a maximum total length of three inches;
5. Bream (*Lepomis spp.*) not exceeding a maximum total length of three inches;

6. Spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) not exceeding maximum total length of ten inches;
7. Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) not exceeding a maximum total length of ten inches;
8. Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) of any size;
9. Hybrid striped bass (*Morone saxatilis* x *Morone chrysops*) or (*Morone saxatilis* x *Morone mississippiensis*) of any size;
10. Coppernose bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus purpurescens*) of any size;
11. Hybrid bream limited to a bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and green sunfish (*L. cyanellus*) cross or a redear sunfish (*L. microlophus*) and bluegill (*L. macrochirus*) cross of any size;
12. Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) of any size;
13. Freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*) of any size;
14. Buffaloes (*Ictiobus spp.*) of any size;
15. Golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*) of any size;
16. Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*) of any size;
17. Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) of any size;
18. Red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*);
19. Triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*); See LAC 76:VII.901;
20. Tilapia (*Oreochromis aurea*, *O. niloticus*, *O. mossambicus* and *O. urolepis hornorum*); See LAC 76.VII.903.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:327.A.(2) and R.S. 56.411.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 34:2679 (December 2008), amended LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Gary Tilyou, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., April 2, 2009.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Robert J. Samanie, III  
Chairman  
Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

Mr. Patrick Banks presented the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Report on the 2008-2009 Oyster Season and Declarations of Emergency relative to Possible Season Adjustments in Portions of the Public Oyster Seed Grounds.** He reminded the Commission that the oyster season was set at their August 2008 Meeting and it was set to run from September through the end of April. In the presentation, Mr. Banks showed a map of the harvest from each Coastal Study Area. As of right now, the total seed harvest was about 25 percent of what was harvested last year and only about 48 percent on the

marketable sack oyster resource. Mr. Banks felt this reduction was related to the fact that there was a low amount of resource to begin with. The next slide was on historical data from Coastal Study Area 2 which was east of the Mississippi River. During the 2008-2009 season, stock availability was about 200,000 barrels of oysters which was the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest starting stock in the state. Harvest levels as of February 1 was at 176,413 barrels which represents about 87 percent utilization. The remaining stocks amount to about 27,000 barrels of oysters. Several factors determine stock availability such as salinity and temperature during reproductive periods, and recruitment of new oysters into the population. Mr. Banks then talked about harvest pressure and compared the harvest levels with harvest rates during the season and it showed that by early March, the remaining resource will have been utilized. He then felt there was a call for concern with 3 months left in the season. Mr. Banks reported this same information to the Oyster Task Force earlier in the week and they passed several motions with the main being to leave the season open through the end of April. Mr. Banks felt it troublesome to tell whether there would be enough resource to make it to the end of the season. Commissioner Oats asked what was the alternative motion from the Task Force. Mr. Banks explained that if the Department felt there was a need for an early closure, rather than a complete closure, may go with a 5 day work week. Commissioner Morrow asked if the Commission passed a Resolution giving the Secretary authority to close or extend a season if there were biological reasons. Mr. Banks stated that at the August Commission Meeting, authority was given to the Secretary to close the season if there was a need. Commissioner Morrow then asked the proposed date of closing and Mr. Banks stated the season was to run through April 30 which was the season ending date set by the Commission. Then Commissioner Morrow asked if the Secretary had the authority to restrict days. Mr. Don Puckett stated the Secretary only has the authority to open and close a season but cannot allow 5 day work week.

Mr. Matt Lepetich, a second generation oyster fisherman from Plaquemines Parish, stated anything but a closure would be an absolute rape of the resources. Since he attended the Oyster Task Force, he knew they ignored the recommendation of Mr. Banks. If everything was taken off the grounds, there will not be anything for next year. He suggested that the Commission should listen to the biologists.

Mr. Mato Lepetich, an oyster farmer from southeast Louisiana, began stating the Oyster Division within the Department was originated to provide seed oysters east of the Mississippi River. In recent years, out-of-state boats have overfished the seed grounds. He also noted that the biologists report was ignored by the Oyster Task Force. Mr. Lepetich felt the time to act was now.

Commissioner Morrow asked for the Department's recommendation. Mr. Banks stated a Department recommendation has not been put forth, but he wanted to see an early closure since the data spoke of the need to restrict the harvest. He then suggested closing the seed grounds by the middle of March. The reason for that timeframe was due to a program whereby they relay oysters from polluted areas to oyster leases which occurs the first 2 weeks of March. The only way for a relay to occur was during an open oyster season. Chairman Samanie stated the Commission would meet again before March 15 and also noted the Secretary had authority. Mr. Banks stated that was correct and there was no action needed at this time by the Commission.

**To receive presentation of Annual Stock Assessment Report for Striped Mullet** was given by Mr. Harry Blanchet. This annual report was one the Commission was charged with providing to the Legislature. This was an update to last year's report which included comments from reviewers so that now there was a second method of doing the analysis which both have concluded that the mullet fishery was not overfished. The spawning potential ratios varied depending upon the inputs used but in all cases was above the conservation standard. The year 2007 was an extraordinarily low harvest year. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Oats made a motion to forward the report to the Legislature, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and approved unanimously.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2009 Meeting** on Thursday, June 4, 2009, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next item was to receive **Public Comments**. Mr. Ronald Coco, representing the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, stated he agreed with Mr. Moreland to extend the deer season in January. After talking with hunters from Avoyelles Parish, he noted they were seeing a lot of bucks moving the last 3 days of the season. Also he found that a lot of hunting clubs will not allow

their hunters to shoot does after December 15. Then he mentioned he conducted a program at an Avoyelles Parish school with 300 children, and of those 300 only 30 hunted. Of those 30, 9 barely hunted and were thinking of quitting all together. Another 9 children use to hunt but did not have their hunter education card and would not hunt because it was boring to go into the woods. Mr. Coco stated he planned to go to other schools and try to find out more about the youth. Commissioner Morrow stated the Commission and Department have targeted the youth allowing more hunts. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Coco for his efforts and those of his organization.

Mr. Joe Macaluso, Outdoors Writer, stated a decision came from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to adopt a mariculture program in the Gulf of Mexico. He was told the target area would not be Louisiana, but the parameters of the program points to offshore Louisiana since this state has the closest, near port, deep water access to the areas where the fish will be raised. Even though the species will be native to the Gulf of Mexico, a problem for Louisiana will be the allowance of a certain number of acres that will target existing structures in the Gulf. Mr. Macaluso felt the Department and Commission should try to get some headway to find out how this program will impact Louisiana's fishermen. This new program could also impact the Rigs to Reef Program. If this program takes 300 or 400 rigs away from fishermen, the result may be a decline in the number of saltwater fishing licenses sold. Mr. Macaluso felt this program in the Gulf opened a "gigantic can of worms" for the State. He asked the Commission to request a report on what this operation could mean for Louisiana.

There being no further business, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Oats.

-----  
Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

scf